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Israel

Lebanon Attack—Seven IDF soldiers were killed and eight wounded in a suicide car bomb attack about 300 meters north of the Israeli-Lebanese border crossing at Metulla, Jerusalem radio announced.

Two Lebanese women were also injured.

A vehicle loaded with some 150 kg of explosives appeared suddenly among an IDF convoy and blew up, sparking off other explosions from ammunition in the Israeli vehicles.

The radio noted that hundreds of Shi'ite villagers in the security zone were interrogated after the attack.

The Islamic Resistance, a military wing of Hizballah, claimed responsibility for the bombing, AFP reported.

An Islamic Resistance spokesman in the Al-Biqa' Valley said his fighters are expecting an Israeli reprisal and are "prepared for all possibilities," the agency noted.

Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, Hizballah's "spiritual guide," hailed the suicide operation as a "message of greeting" to the strugglers in the Palestinian uprising, Voice of Lebanon radio noted.

For Israel's part, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin all warned of possible Israeli reprisals, according to Jerusalem television.

Shamir said Israel will "annihilate the murderers' organizations," while Rabin stated that those who send people on suicide missions "will be required to foot the bill."

Shamir also told Jerusalem radio that those attacking the IDF in Lebanon "share the same goal and are partners to the same conspiracy to harm Israel" as the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

Violence in Territories—Six Arabs were wounded by IDF gunfire during clashes in Janin, Nabulus, Tulkarm, and the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem radio reported.

Oil poured on roads by Arab youths as part of the uprising was responsible for a traffic accident which killed two Hebron residents, the radio noted.

PLP-PLO Talks—The Progressive List for Peace (PLP) has signed an agreement with the PLO calling for the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel with its capital in East Jerusalem, Jerusalem radio reported.

The document was signed by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas and PLP MK's Matityahu Peled and Muhammad Mi'ari during a recent meeting in Belgrade.

On their return from Yugoslavia, Peled and Mi'ari said they were informed by the PLO side that the PLO will decide to "recognize" Israel during the upcoming PNC session, according to IDF radio.

TASS and TANJUG reports on the PLP-PLO talks noted they focused on the possibility of establishing a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza.

PRC Delegation—A PRC trade delegation arrived in Israel 19 October and will hold talks with Israeli manufacturers and importers on ways to strengthen trade relations, IDF radio noted.

PNSF Damascus Talks

The PNSF met in Damascus with Lebanese nationalist forces, including leaders of the Amal Movement and the PSP, Damascus radio reported.

The conferees agreed to coordinate their stands "in the Lebanese arena" to "confront all possibilities."

The clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported that the parties decided to form a unified command against the "Israeli scheme" in Lebanon.

Damascus radio's "Palestine broadcast" called for "escalated Palestinian armed resistance" to support the uprising against Israel and "expand the battlefield."

The broadcast said guerrilla warfare should be able to deal "effective blows" to the enemy's public utilities and sources affecting its military capabilities.

Iran

Foreign Relations—Western reports that Iran wants to reestablish diplomatic ties with the United States are "not substantiated and not well founded," Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani told IRNA.

He added that the main obstacle to relations with the United States remains the U.S. Government's "hostile and antagonistic" policy toward Iran.

War Prisoners—Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in an interview with IRNA, called Iraq's recent statement on exchanging prisoners of war a "new propaganda ploy."

He said the exchange of prisoners should only be speeded up within the framework of Resolution 598, which is being impeded by "Iraqi obstructions."

Defense Issues—In his capacity as acting Armed Forces commander in chief, Rafsanjani said Iran should "consider" adding chemical and biological weapons to its arsenal, IRNA reported.

He also said efforts are under way to merge certain sectors of the Army and the IRGC, because "competition between them is unbearable."

Saudi Arabia

In a speech in Mecca, King Fahd said the problems with Iran are "limited and not likely to continue," SPA reported.

He said he wants to put an end to all problems between the Kingdom and Iran and issued instructions to the information minister to make newspapers and the radio refrain from "antagonizing" Iran.

Algeria

During a meeting with a delegation of the Algerian Human Rights League, President Chadli Bendjedid showed "extreme concern" over the issues raised and affirmed that any "excesses" against human rights will be punished through the stringent application of the law, Algiers television reported.

Bendjedid expressed support for the League's work and urged its members to continue to defend and expose any violations of human rights.

According to one delegation member cited by the television, the League talked with Bendjedid "boldly, sincerely, and objectively" and presented him with observations on "violations and excesses" against human rights, particularly violations of the right of defense.

The League has decided to establish committees to investigate human rights violations and to look into "deficient and deviating" Algerian information sources which "hindered" Algerian media, the television added.

Criticism of "mistakes and excesses" which followed the mass arrests was likewise expressed by presidents of the Bar Association in a communique reported by Algiers radio.

The lawyers' leaders stressed that the rights of defense can only be exercised within the framework of an independent judicial system.

An Algiers radio report on the trial of 52 defendants accused of participating in the riots noted that "some of the accused were noticeably ill, suffering from pains and aches all over their bodies."

Meanwhile, hundreds of university teachers held a meeting to denounce torture by the security forces, Paris radio reported.

A number of university students have begun a hunger strike demanding democracy, an amnesty for those sentenced, and an end to mistreatment, the radio said.

Afghanistan

Plenum—The PDPA Central Committe held a plenary session 19 October, Kabul radio announced.

President Najibullah presented a detailed report on the political-military situation in the country and the "urgent tasks" of the PDPA in realizing the policy of national reconciliation.

The radio noted that Politburo members Saleh Muhammad Ziray and 'Abdul Zohur Razmju were relieved of their duties.

Missile Attacks—Rebel forces launched a missile attack on residential areas of Kabul and Gardeyz 19 October, Kabul radio reported.

Kabul Airport was shut down as a result of the attack, which left 15 dead, an AFP report added.

Attacks on Gardeyz have caused "heavy" damage to military installations, according to Islamabad radio.

Palestinian Affairs

PNC Session To Convene in Algeria 12-14 Nov

JN2010093088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Text] PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has said the Palestinian leadership met in the PLO office yesterday in the presence of Commander in Chief Yasir 'Arafat and other leadership members.

Following a debate and a review of all circumstances and considerations, it was decided to hold an extraordinary PNC session in Algeria 12-14 November, he added.

Al-Hurani on PNC, Confederation With Jordan

NC1910152288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with 'Abdallah al-Hurani, PLO Executive Committee member and official spokesman.

Al-Hurani said the meeting was held within the framework of the constant consultations that take place with Egyptian officials to brief them first hand on the PLO's activities, to discuss the PNC session, and to review the results of the PLO delegation's visit to Moscow. He added that Dr 'Abd al-Majid's assessment was positive.

Al-Hurani declared that the PNC session will not be held on the date previously set for it, that is, 31 October, in Algeria and that the new date has not yet been finally determined. He said the Palestinian leaders are currently holding constant discussions to arrange the new date and venue for the PNC session.

Responding to a question on recent remarks by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to the effect that the establishment of a Palestinian state would threaten Israel and provoke a third world war, Al-Hurani said no one can believe that just because a people like the Palestinian people obtain their rights this could provoke a third world war.

He added: Shamir recognizes quite well that the matter of a third world war does not lie with him. In view of the nuclear balance, the policy of international detente, and the developing relations between the two superpowers, there can be no question of a third world war, he said.

Regarding Resolution 181 of 1947 on partition, Al-Hurani said this was the first international legal resolution to stress the Palestinian people's right to set up their own state. It also emphasized the principle of establishing two states. One of them has been established, while the other has not. The PLO and the Palestinian people are calling on the world to help establish the other state through international legality.

In connection with the establishment of a confederation with Jordan, Al-Hurani said that at the 16th, 17th, and 18th PNC sessions the PLO stressed and approved the principle of establishing a confederation between an independent Palestinian state and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The PLO will decide on this in its next session.

He added: We support confederation, but this confederation must be between two independent states and based on a free and voluntary choice by the two independent peoples.

On the statement by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres regarding his agreement to hold an international peace conference after the Israeli election, Al-Hurani said he was sorry Peres had not stuck to this positive stand.

He said: Peres has once again reverted to talking about the Jordanian option, which Jordan itself has terminated. Hence only the Palestinian option remains and he should have agreed to the PLO's participation, with Israel, in an international conference if he really wants peace.

Concluding his statement, the PLO official called for continued backing for the Palestinian cause. He stressed that any resolution passed by a future Arab summit must underline the unity of the Arab stand. Until this is done, the Arab countries must increase their support for the Palestinian uprising.

He also stresssed that the uprising, which has dazzled the world, will not change its methods and will continue its present line. It will not provide any opportunity to exploit the situation that might lead to an escalation of the arbitrary practices.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that at their meeting he and 'Abdallah al-Hurani dealt with the results of the PLO's consultations with Moscow. He stated he considers the USSR stand an encouraging one concerning both developments in the Palestinian issue and Egyptian-PLO coordination, which is designed to help achieve peace and the Palestinian people's national legitimate rights.

PLO's Salah Khalaf on Palestinian State

JN1810174688 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 17 Oct 88 pp 1, 20

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, identified by his nom de guerre Abu Iyad, by Yusuf 'Alawinah; date, place not given]

[Text] ['Alawinah] Brother Abu Iyad, what is the reality of the Palestinian differences and what is the truth about the two trends in Palestinan dialogue?

[Khalaf] There are no differences with regard to the proclamation of independence and an independent state. All are unanimous on declaring the document of independence and state.

However, there are two opinions with regard to the political statement. Should the statement carry a new language responding to what our friends ask and what the enemies expect so they will fail? This does exist. Some people say we should announce a realistic political program, responding to the requests of friends so world public opinion will support us in every step.

Others say we should not make any political concessions. We should wait for the appropriate atmosphere to make this announcement so there will be no negative effect on us and good effect on Israel and the United States.

These two opinions exist and we usually respect others' opinions. Our objective is to put pressure on America and Israel to convene an international conference and to achieve the national rights of the Palestinian people—particularly their right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state. With regard to the state and document, there is a consensus without any hesitation from any individual or organization.

[`Alawinah] Would the developments result in amending the charter in preparation for the proclamation of an independent state?

[Khalaf] Personally, I did not deal with the charter even once in my statement to the press. People's charters are not canceled by movements, individuals, or even leaders. These charters are sacred.

They say that our charter calls for the destruction of Israel. I deny that the Palestinian Charter says any such thing. The charter outlines the natural borders of Palestine—north, south, east, and west.

With regard to the destruction of Israel, I deny this image which Israel is trying to propagate in the world. The charter is an announcement to the Palestinian people defining their homeland and state. The circumstances and plot divided Palestine and allowed Israel to expand and occupy all Palestine. This situation prompted us to tackle the issue in a short-term solution. Well, this is something and the charter is something else.

Israel has even more dangerous charters. If our charter, which defines our country, is dangerous, what do you say about the Zionist charters which define their state and entity from the Nile to the Euphrates? The modest Zionist charter shows that their state extends to the East Bank. Today, the Herut political program says the West Bank as well as the East Bank are ours. This is an announced, not secret, program.

We do not deal with our charter in a cheap way to say that we canceled or obstructed it. There are short-term programs to tackle a current situation. This has nothing to do with the charter.

We ask if Israel announced its borders when it announced the independence program. It did not define its borders because it planned aggression against our people and the people of Jordan, Syria, and Egypt. So far, Israel has not outlined its borders. And as of this moment there is no Israeli constitution to define the borders of Israel.

When people ask us to recognize Israel, we say: Which Israel do you want us to recognize? Where are its borders? To what extent will its borders move—to the East Bank, the Nile, or the Euphrates?

This is a short-term tackling of a current short-term situation. If they want to discuss all the Palestinian issue let them go to the international conference in which we will discuss everything.

[`Alawinah] We want to ask again about Yitzhaq Shamir's proposal through Romania with regard to a settlement with the PLO.

[Khalaf] This is correct. Shamir proposed through a friendly country that the PLO be placed in charge of the self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza for a certain period of time. Then the future of the occupied territory will be discussed even if this leads to an independent Palestinan state. This talk took place through some friends in a socialist European country.

The answer was the rejection because this will legitimize self-rule and Camp David. We rejected the offer although Shamir and his office denied it. However, I affirm there was an offer and we categorically rejected it.

[Alawinah] Was your European tour related to such an offer?

[Khalaf] It was not related. The objective of the tour was to hold consultations with the friends on the independence document, the political program, and the political statement which we intend to propose. I felt a great response from the countries I visited whether they are socialist or from Western Europe.

I felt a response to a realistic political statement that will put the United States and Israel in a corner and make world public opinion realize the PLO wants to achieve peace through a just and comprehensive settlement to be reached in an international conference to be attended by all concerned parties. This was the objective of the visit and the response was great. The tour had nothing to do with Israeli proposals, as you have said. [`Alawinah] What about the announcement attributed to you concerning the independent state?

[Khalaf] Abu Iyad does not announce a Palestinian state. It is the PNC that announces the state. I regret that some brothers in the Arab press always fish for words to make banner headlines.

I cannot possibly announce the state regardless of my position. The state is announced by the PNC, which has the right to do so. Unfortunately, we have gotten accustomed to sensational banner headlines, which sometimes cause confusion.

['Alawinah] How do you assess the Israeli reaction to your statements concerning Resolution 181 on the partition of Palestine?

[Khalaf] We sometimes make statements to embarrass the Zionist enemy before world public opinion. When I spoke about Resolution 181, a correspondent asked me: On what basis would the state be established?

I said: On the basis of partition, because partition gave us the international legitimacy to establish the state. I did not even speak about or accept the recognition of partition, because I did not say that the state would be on the basis of partition. [sentence as published]

I only spoke about the part that gave us legitimacy. This was the part that terrified the Israelis, because they are against anything that refers to international legitimacy and recognizes the Palestinians' rights.

There are many resolutions which refer to Palestinian territory by name. There are also resolutions on Jerusalem, the refugees, and the right to repatriation. All these resolutions constitute rights for our people.

Therefore, the mere reference to legitimacy terrifies Israel, because this state feels it is based on usurpation. Therefore, reminding it of Palestinian rights opens the door to its isolation or to its collapse as a regime.

Therefore, I am not surprised when Israelis fear any peace call by the PLO and any talk about international legitimacy, because these things remind it of the hundreds of UN resolutions which back the Palestinian people.

Unfortunately, due to fear and sometimes due to "revolutionary purity" we fail to use these resolutions. This is wrong. It is our duty to use these resolutions. This does not mean we are thinking erroneously. Whoever wants a state must open the door of struggle and hope for the Palestinians.

He who wants to say only no and he who wants to just sit at home, shun responsibility, and let our great people in the occupied territory face the bullets with their bodies every day and also face all methods of Nazi coercion and oppression, cannot say to the people he is with them without demanding the establishment of the state on any part of Palestinian soil.

It is the enemy, not us, who should fear this call. This is because it is a call for the establishment of the Palestinian state, which embodies our people's hopes and continued existence as a living people on their own land and with their own identity and struggle methods, which change with every new phase.

This is the truth behind the Israeli terror. This terror will continue no matter how long the cause takes. We will attain our rights whether the Israelis like it or not. Only time will tell. We are not in a hurry.

['Alawinah] Are you ready to accept mutual concessions with Israel?

[Khalaf] He who owns the rights in Palestine does not concede these rights. There are those who want a state, a homeland, an identity, and a passport and these things have nothing to do with concessions. We have the power of continuity. There are also those who want to exist and sleep on slogans.

The question is not one of concessions. There is the Arab defeat in 1967. This defeat defined the solution in international society's mind. Many people are also of the opinion that the 1967 war has imposed certain demands on us, the Palestinians, and we are not thinking of throwing these demands in the sea. If there is a homeland and a state, then we are ready to present a political program which recognizes these facts without making any concessions.

I am not the one to be asked to make concessions. Israel has usurped all of our land. It is the one which must be asked now to make concessions on something which its regards as its right.

Of course, we do not recognize this right and we cannot recognize for it any part of the land of Palestine. We will continue the long journey that awaits us. This journey does not include any concessions.

I believe these are the same voices which we heard in 1974 saying the short-term program was a liquidatory and capitulationist program and which came up with the rejectionist program and made a big uproar over it.

And now in 1988, some 14 years later, we are still in Tunis, Algiers, Aden, Sanaa, and Iraq. This shows the 1974 program was not capitulation. Had it been so, we would have obtained the state.

Our present program, which stems from the 1974 program, does not deviate from the Palestinian Charter. The word concessions does not scare or terrify us. Every additional day we live is a new lease on life. Were it not for our faith in God, we would have said that every one of us is facing death every moment. Therefore, we will leave the outbiddings, proposals, and rumors to others.

These people should rest assured and understand that nobody can outbid us on this issue. Only true strugglers can say what is right and what is wrong. The relationship between us and our people has reached the highest level ever between a leadership and its people.

We have been scorched by the cause. So we know how to take best care of it. We have been humbled several times, but we did not make any concessions.

Those who hide in the trench of absolute rejection are in fact in the Israeli trench. It is indeed strange for the opponents of the state to meet with Israel. They are playing on people's feelings concerning recognition, the charter, and the concessions and therefore serving Israel's objectives.

But I say: We will continue our political moves until we achieve our objective.

Just as the Zionists built it inch by inch, we, too, will build our state inch by inch on the land of Palestine.

['Alawinah] How do you assess the impact of the uprising on international detente?

[Khalaf] The uprising has left its marks on many fields, on the Israeli, Arab, and international levels. After the Washington summit, Gorbachev said in Washington that they did not discuss the Middle East issue due to the rejection of the U.S. side.

After the uprising, Shultz, who had put the Middle East issue in the refrigerator for more than 5 years, began moving because he was fearing the impact of the uprising on Israel and others.

When the Moscow summit was held, the uprising was at its peak. As we have been told by the Soviets, and as we knew from U.S. sources, the Middle East issue has become the fixed topic on the agenda of any meeting between the two superpowers, on any level.

The political initiatives we are thinking of come as a result of this and of the international accord on regional issues. But solving the regional conflicts by an understanding between the two superpowers is also based on the balance of powers of the regional conflicts themselves.

I think the uprising has changed balances in a way where a solution will not be at the expence of our national rights, but will be realistic and within the framework of our rights.

The uprising has had a great impact on the thinking of the two superpowers. The continuation and escalation of the uprising is very important as the uprising is the great hope produced by our long course of struggle. The uprising is one of the factors exploding human history, on Arab, international, and Israeli levels.

['Alawinah] What do you expect the shape of forthcoming Israeli moves regarding the Lebanese crisis to be?

[Khalaf] Israel is seriously considering converting the security belt into a state as a reaction to the convening of the PNC and the proclamation of the state. We have information to support this.

This, however, will happen if the situation continues to be the same in Lebanon and if the forces blocking the election of a Lebanese president continue to do so. This would mean consecrating partition. The mostly-wronged people in these mini-states would be the Sunnis.

If people do not give up ideas of control, hegemony, and imposition of trusteeship on the Lebanese people, and if the Lebanese people and their nationalist, Islamic, and Christian forces are not left to choose a president for all the Lebanese, who can restore the unity of Lebanon, the risk of partition will be real and there will be sectarian mini-states, engaged in war with each other. And the region will have more than one Israel.

Some have not learned from events. They continue to be misled by the Americans. This is a reckless policy of people who do not learn from experience.

['Alawinah] What about the Israeli elections? What about Weizman's election document, which says 1989 will be the year of the Palestinians?

[Khalaf] We wish Israel had brave men who want to maintain for Jews their rights and let them live in the region within the region's atmosphere. However, I doubt that an Israeli De Gaulle actually exists.

Nevertheless, we say the elections are coming. They will show whether Israel is heading toward peace or war. This is a historic opportunity for serious thought about Palestinian rights. Without this, there will be no peace in the region.

Any agreements will be worthless unless the Palestinian people attain their national rights and take over control of their cause. The PLO is ready for discussions and for representing its people in any international conference. We are waiting to see the outcome of these election talks.

However, we do not want the Israeli elections to sweep everything in its way and result in the vicious right taking control, thus making the next 4 years hard for everybody.

As for us, we will not be affected whether the Labor or the Likud wins. We will continue to extend our hand in peace and say we want a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of our inalienable national rights.

['Alawinah] Is the United States exerting pressure on you to prevent you from proclaiming independence and creating a state? When will you hold your PNC session? And what do you think of Shultz' farewell speech in which he rejected the Palestinian state?

[Khalaf] Nothing said or done by the U.S. Administration surprises me. We know the United States is pressuring some Arab states to make them pressure the PLO.

Regrettably, some of our brothers are adopting the U.S. view as regards the proclamation of a state and the political program that will be issued by the PLO. And even as regards the convening of the PNC session, some prefer to hold it after the Israeli and U.S. elections.

Therefore, we will hold our PNC session before the Israeli and U.S. elections and our decisions will not be a reaction to the results of these elections, as we know that the bazaar of these elections always works in favor of Israel and not the Arabs.

The U.S. pressure is neither new nor strange, we will proclaim our independent state as we believe that international legitimacy is an indivisible whole. It cannot be a legitimacy that allows only Israel to establish its state.

International legitimacy stipulates that the Palestinian people must be given the right to establish their state on their own soil. We are continuing the efforts in this regard. And when the international conference is convened, we will discuss the boundaries of this state and the other issues. We are determined to declare our independence.

['Alawinah] What are the news of the meetings held by the Fatah Movement in Tunis?

[Khalaf] It was a meeting attended by some secretaries, cadres, and commissioners. We reviewed the political situation brought about by the variables represented by Jordan's decision, the uprising, and international detente. We analyzed these variables and their impact on us.

We also discussed ways to further continue and escalate the uprising, as it provided us with international support which has allowed us to talk forcefully on the implementation of our program regarding the establishment of an independent state on any part of the Palestinian territory. There was a conviction regarding the need to hold the Fatah Movement conference as soon as possible so it can make important decisions to protect this movement which is the backbone of the Palestinian revolution.

The dialogues held were positive and rose to the level demanded by the current phase in terms of the favorable response demonstrated toward all that was presented by the leadership.

The brothers were put in the picture regarding the political moves and the inter-Palestinian dialogues held. They were also briefed on what has been agreed upon regarding the convening of the PNC session, the declaration of the independence document, and tasking the PLO Central Council to discuss the other issues at the appropriate time.

PNC Speaker Leaves for Tunis PLO Meetings

JN1910135088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Amman, 19 Oct (INA)— PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih left for Tunis today to attend a meeting of Palestinian leaders that will be held there within the next 24 hours.

Palestinian sources informed the INA correspondent here today that the conferees will discuss developments pertaining to political moves and the Palestinian future in light of the recent developments brought about by the announcement of Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank.

The sources added the conferees will also discuss the latest developments pertaining to the preparations for convening the extraordinary PNC session which is scheduled to be held in Algiers on 8 November.

'Source' Alleges Israeli Assassination Plan

NC1910154788 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] An informed Palestinian source has disclosed that the PLO has uncovered an Israeli plan to assassinate some Palestinian leaders. The source explained that implementation of this plan is aimed at obstructing the PNC meeting expected to be held in Algiers next month.

Algeria

Justice Minister Examines Recent Unrest

PM1910143288 Paris LE FIGARO in French 17 Oct 88 p 40

[Interview with Justice Minister Mohamed Cherif Kharroubi by Pierre Branche—date, place not given]

[Text] Pierre Branche: Minister, we learned on television on Saturday evening that the emergency courts set up immediately after the riots have just been dismantled. But why were they set up?

Cherif Kharroubi: There have never been any such courts. The term "emergency" is a mistake by our media. My communique is perfectly clear. In fact, the people who have already been tried—a total of 721—were tried by ordinary courts, magistrate's courts, but which held special sessions to avoid excessive delays for the defendants.

This is strictly in accordance with the penal procedures provided for such circumstances. We refrained from using this emergency procedure, to ensure that nobody could question the severity of the sentences passed.

600 Looters

Pierre Branche: Does this mean that the sentences passed so far have been open to suspicion and that they could be annulled?

Cherif Kharroubi: That would be an insult to the magistrates who deliberated according to their hearts and consciences, free from any pressure. Those who appeared before them were entitled to request an adjournment. Some people did so and their request was granted.

In addition, I can tell you that most of those sentenced have already appealed—this is perfectly legitimate—and that this appeal procedure is following its course.

Pierre Branche: How many people were arrested during these disturbances? And how many of them have been released?

Cherif Kharroubi: According to our records, 3,743 people have appeared in court. As I told you, 721 of them have been tried and 153 of them have been released. We have so far already released 923 people. Most of them are less than 18 years old and are therefore minors who have been handed over to their parents.

The magistrates will probably be less understanding toward some adults who have a criminal record and who were apprehended in the act of arson and looting. They total around 600 people.

Pierre Branche: You are talking of people being held in civilian prisons. But are there not also people and demonstrators who were arrested and are still being held by the military authorities and who are therefore not under your control?

Cherif Kharroubi: I can state categorically that the Army is not holding anybody at all, and I challenge anybody to deny it. And it is time to make it absolutely clear that nobody is being held arbitrarily in this country. In particular, nobody is being held because of their beliefs, as some people have claimed.

As justice minister, I stress that the president's instructions have been widely distributed and he has called for respect and implementation of the law to be guaranteed in all proceedings and for the magistrates to be guaranteed complete freedom.

For instance, minors appeared before the relevant juvenile courts, presided over by a juvenile judge assisted by two qualified people who deal with young people in a professional capacity. With regard to the adults, I would like to point out that the vast majority of them have appeared or will appear before magistrate's courts, whereas many of those caught red-handed will be tried by the assize courts.

The use of magistrates' courts prevents long delays for the defendants. This mitigation of the procedure must be seen as a desire to show clemency in view of the specific nature of the events, but it must certainly not be confused with weakness.

Application of the Law

Pierre Branche: Are some people being kept isolated or in solitary confinement?

Cherif Kharroubi: All the defendants and people sentenced enjoy the rights stipulated in the penal code. The defendants' families can visit them twice a week.

Those sentenced are entitled to one weekly visit. Both can have private meetings with their lawyers. And we have asked the president of the bar to appoint defense lawyers for those who did not have them.

Pierre Branche: Do you think prison conditions are satisfactory?

Cherif Kharroubi: In view of the unprecedented influx, they are as satisfactory as can be. We are paying particular attention to hygiene and health questions.

Pierre Branche: Have there been any presidential directives, or any directives from you urging magistrates to show clemency?

Cherif Kharroubi: In Algeria, as in France, a magistrate cannot submit to pressure from any quarter. The only initiative which can be taken is to emphasize the need for strict application of the law, and that is what President Chadli Bendjedid has done.

Some sentences may have seemed severe because the magistrates, who are citizens too and who experienced these painful events, may have been severe with some known criminals convicted of serious crimes.

No Cases of Irregularity

Pierre Branche: Is that why it was decided not to speed up proceedings?

Cherif Kharroubi: Now that the situation has returned to normal, we are dispensing with the flagrante delicto procedure and returning to the normal use of examining magistrates.

Pierre Branche: Is the Algerian Human Rights League in a position to ensure that justice is done?

Cherif Kharroubi: The Human Rights League, authorized by the authorities, has received all the facilities it needs. It is now playing its role fully. And we welcome this. It is able to visit prisoners freely at any time. Anything it regarded as abnormal and which it reported to us has received a satisfactory solution.

And I would like to point out that no serious case of irregularity has been brought to my attention either by lawyers or by the league.

Pierre Branche: Are any of the people sentenced after the November 1986 events, known as the "Constantine riots," still in prison?

Cherif Kharroubi: Those who were still in prison were all released under the terms of the presidential pardon issued in March 1987.

Pierre Branche: Can we hope for a similar move to "wipe the slate clean" for those sentenced after this month's riots?

Cherif Kharroubi: The restoration of calm which we are observing in Algiers and in the rest of the country is bound to encourage any initiative aimed at achieving national solidarity. Our efforts are directed at this goal and at rebuilding what has been destroyed.

'October Incidents' Trial Adjourned

LD1910202588 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] At 1100 at the Judicial Council building on Abbar Ramdan Avenue, the trial took place of those accused of participating in the October incidents.

The trial was presided over by Fathi Essaid, Bassa, and Moukhtari. The prosecution was presented by Mr Mouhoubi. Fifty-two defendants were tried, ageing from 19 to 48, among them 5 who were released temporarily during a previous session.

The defendants were represented by official lawyers designated to them and by some lawyers who they hired.

Immediately after the session began, the hired lawyers requested that the chair adjourn the session to allow them to study the files in detail and to obtain criminal records certificates to enable them to conduct their defense in objective and clear circumstances.

However, the designated lawyers requested the session be held, because it is the second one of its kind during which they called for a final verdict. In the case of an adjournment, they requested the defendants be temporarily released because this is the basic law and only in exceptional cases can they be temporarily imprisoned.

Following these interventions, the session chair adjourned to deliberate these requests, then returned and announced the adjournment of the session until 26 October.

Only three defendants were released.

The principal accusations directed against the defendants, according to the public prosecutor, are gathering, stealing, looting, and setting ablaze and destroying state and public properties.

He added that 40 percent of the accused have previous criminal records.

The public trial was attended by a large number of people representing families and guardians of the defendants. Some parents said that they have no news about their children and they know nothing about them. Others protested because they were not granted permission to visit their relatives.

Some of the lawyers indicated that intangible accusations were attributed to some defendants [passage indistinct]

The accusation of flagrante delicto was levelled against 100 persons. The court is at the moment studying their files. The others will be referred to the examining magistrate. In accordance with Article 58 of the Punishment Law, lawyers may attend the examining sessions.

Some of the accused were noticeably ill, suffering from pains and aches all over their bodies. They said that they were not allowed to see a doctor.

On a question addressed to the public prosecutor in this connection, he said that the defendant has a right to ask to see the doctor, and if necessary he should be transferred to a hospital. If the case has been otherwise, the public prosecutor did not know about it.

With regard the right of families and guardians to visit, the public prosecutor stressed that the families have a right to apply for visit permits and supply necessary items like food and clothes. All they have to do is contact the court to obtain the permits.

Bar Presidents Regret Recent Regime 'Excesses'
LD1910233288 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] The presidents of the Bar of the Orders of Lawyers of Algeria, who met this afternoon at the Palace of Justice, have expressed their regret at the excesses affecting the fundamental freedoms of citizens during the recent events.

In a communique which reached APS this evening, they express their deep distress at the loss of life and their regret at the attacks on public and private property which resulted in mass arrests, which led to mistakes and excesses affecting the fundamental freedoms of citizens and their rights as laid down by the Constitution.

In this situation, the communique continues, the presidents of the bar express their deep conviction that the rights of defense can only be exercised within the framework of an independent judicial system.

Students Call for 'Greater Democracy'
LD1910112588 Paris International Service in French 0630 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] In Algeria the students are making themselves heard in the general assemblies of the universities where since the beginning of the week many have been calling for greater democracy.

A group of seven students yesterday began a hunger strike at the Houari Boumedienne Science University. These students are calling for a general amnesty, the establishment of democracy, and an end to ill-treatment.

Teachers Meet, 'Strongly Condemn' Torture
LD1910152588 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Excerpts] In Algeria academics have stated that they strongly condemn the practice of torture by the security services following the riots of recent weeks and their suppression. [passage omitted] Here is Claire Arsenaud-Lers, our correspondent in Algiers:

[Arsenaud-Lers] First, students at Bab Azzouar University in a suburb of Algiers have begun a hunger strike to win an amnesty for those sentenced, the establishment of democracy, and finally an end to ill-treatment.

On the same campus hundreds of teachers met to denounce the torture by security forces, both the police and the Army. Direct accounts by people who suffered severe brutality, bordering on the unbearable, were recounted during this meeting and were confirmed by doctors.

Young people who were arrested recently state they were held outside detention centers for several days without food and drink. More surprisingly, some students told us they were arrested on 3 October, that is the day before the explosion in Algeria. These students were also tortured mentioned in the weekly ALGERIE ACTUALITE [government newspaper] under the transparent formula—I quote them—of this word which has suddenly emerged and recalls the bad times of the past. [sentence as heard]

Anti-torture committees are now being set up in Algeria and the Algerian Human Rights League chaired by Miloud Brahimi, who attended the meeting of university staff yesterday, is now appealing to the president for a national committee of inquiry to be set up.

Human Rights Group Voices Concern to President
LD1910175088 Algiers Televison Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] At the beginning of this news summary we note the audience granted by the president of the Republic to a delegation from the Algerian League of Human Rights led by its Chairman Miloud Brihimi.

The delegation expressed its concern to the president in the light of the sad events witnessed by the country—about some human rights transgression.

The president of the Republic showed his deep interest in the issues submitted to him and stressed to the league's delegation that any transgressions will be treated according to the strictest respect for law.

The president of the Republic expressed support for the league's members and encouraged them to carry on defending human rights and to expose any transgression which harms human rights.

The president of the Republic reiterated his determination to promote a legal framework which enables all to express their views democratically.

Further on Meeting

LD2010090188 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] [Announcer] The president of the Republic and party secretary general has met with a delegation of the Algerian League of Human Rights. The delegation was headed by Miloud Brihimi, chairman of the League.

The delegation presented to the head of state some excesses regarding human rights which occurred during the painful events recently witnessed in the country.

The president of the Republic showed extreme concern over the issues raised, affirming to the delegation that any excesses will be punished under the stringent application of the law.

The head of state also supported the members of the League and urged them to continue to defend and uncover any violations of human rights. The head of state reaffirmed his will to promote the legal framework which permits all trends to express their opinion democratically.

The chairman of the League and a member of the delegation in an interview with television reporter (Hasan Ben 'Wadah) discussed the content and the delegation's impressions of the meeting with the president:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] following the painful events which we experienced recently, we have been received by the president of the republic. As usual we thanked him for this. The League told him about the violations and excesses against human rights of which we were aware. We told him about all the issues which the league had to go through within this framework.

We found from the president a complete will for the reform about which he talked in his speech. We now await the next stage. Thank you. Any others who would like to speak are welcome to do so.

[Another unidentified speaker] In any event, our meeting with the president of the Republic this morning was long. The League talked with the president of the Republic quite boldly, sincerely, and objectively. It presented to him the League's observations on the violations and excesses against human rights, in particular violations of the right of defense. We suggested to his excellency solutions to these problems.

The president promised the strict application of the law. He also promised that the machinery of justice and the judiciary will, in this difficult stage through which our country is passing, remain an independent organ which implements the law. In the future there will be no (?haste) in passing judicial verdicts for the sake of preserving the judiciary's reputation as well as the country's reputation, because the (?hasty) pronouncement of penal verdicts tends to affect the country and its dignity. [end recording]

[Announcer] The chairman of the Algerian League of Human Rights also announced that he asked the president of the Republic to form a national committee to carry out an inquiry into the cause of the violent incidents which recently took place in the country. He added that the League is ready to take an active part in such a committee.

The Algerian League of Human Rights issued a statement Monday following an emergency meeting of the founder-members at which they affirmed their support for the initiatives of the League's steering committee. They decided to set up an investigation committee into human rights violations committed during the events of the recent days.

After gathering all the information and evidence, the committee will prepare a report that will be published at a later date. They also decided to form a committee to look into the deficient and deviating Algerian information which hindered Algerian media and resulted in the foreign information organs monopolizing the information.

The League takes this opportunity to extend its backing for the Algerian journalists who demanded the right to exercise their duties.

Ibrahimi Receives Malian, Ghanaian Officials

LD1810113988 Algiers APS in English 1019 GMT 18 Oct 88

[Text) Algiers, 18/10/88 (APS)—Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi audienced Monday here Boubakar Diallo, deputy secretary general of the Knmati Abon [not further identified] of the Malian people and special envoy of President Moussa Traore who handed over a message to President Chadli Bendjedid.

On this occasion, the two sides exchanged views on the situation in Africa and on other international questions of common intend.

Taleb Ibrahimi also audienced Mohamed Ibn Chambas vice foreign minister of Ghana who handed him a message from President Jerry Rawlings to President Chadli Bendjedid.

During this audience, bilateral questions and international questions of common interest were also dealt with.

Egypt

AL-AHRAM Interview With Mubarak Cited

NC2010081988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 20 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has said that he believes Israel will implement the verdict on the Tabah issue in accordance with the agreement between the two sides. He pointed out that Israel fully realizes that its procrastination in implementing the ruling will cost it credibility and, whether we like it or not, this will also harm relations between the two countries and damage Israel's image.

President Mubarak asserted that the interests of the Arab peoples converge and there is no real contradiction between the interest of one Arab nation and another, particularly with Syria, whose relations with Egypt are clearly special.

He pointed out that in addition a special Egyptian rapport once existed with President Hafiz al-Asad. He declared that all this requires that both countries preserve the relationship between them in a special context despite differences of views. He noted that this can be done by establishing contact channels and direct dialogue on all issues of concern to both parties.

President Husni Mubarak remarked that this same principle applies to the relationship with Libya, noting however, that in Libya's case theory is one thing and practice is another.

This came in a comprehensive interview which President Husni Mubarak gave to AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' and which the paper published today. In the interview President Mubarak deals with Egypt's foreign policy and position on a number of current important issues.

Answering a question relating to Israeli intentions regarding the prompt implementation of the international tribunal's verdict on Egypt's sovereignty over Tabah, President Husni Mubarak said:

I believe Israel will implement the arbitration tribunal's verdict because this is what is legally and politically required. Otherwise arbitration would become meaningless. The arbitration compromise signed by the two countries provided for a particular method to guarantee the implementation of the ruling. It also included particular procedures that must be followed in case a dispute arises about implementation.

The most important procedure is that the two sides must agree on an implementation date within 21 days after the issuance of the verdict. If a dispute arises between them about the interpretation or implementation of the ruling it becomes each party's right to resort to the tribunal within 30 days after it issues its verdict, to request it to give clarifications capable of facilitating the implementation of the ruling. The tribunal must do that within 45 days.

The president remarked that Israel doubtless realizes that its procrastination in implementing the verdict will make it lose its credibility as a state that abides by its commitments, and if it does that with Egypt, the first Arab country to take the initiative to make peace, how will it act with other parties? He noted that, in addition, failure to implement the ruling will, whether we like it or not, harm relations between the two countries and damage Israel's image before Egyptian citizens. Does Israel want this to happen?

We must not forget that the method we followed in resolving this issue did not come out of a vacuum but was in implementation of a clear provision in the peace treaty devoted to clarifying the method of resolving any disputes that might arise between the two sides regarding interpreting or implementing the treaty's articles. If Israel refuses to implement the verdict issued by the arbitration tribunal, it will be violating a basic provision of the peace treaty with all the legal consequences that such a violation incurs.

President Mubarak added that for all these reasons, Egypt has taken care to protect its rights and has notified Israel of its willingness to implement the ruling within a specified time, requesting it to make a similar undertaking. He said that the arbitration tribunal has also been notified of the situation so that it will maintain its legal authority over the issue until it is implemented. He said he believes that there will be Israeli action within the next few days with regard to implementing its commitments.

Asked if there are mediation efforts to bring the viewpoints of Egypt and Syria closer, President Mubarak said: We generally deal with the Arab brothers in the belief that the interests of all the Arab people are the same and that there can be no genuine contradiction between the interest of one Arab nation and another.

This is particularly true for Syria, for there are a number of objective factors that underline the importance of these ties in a very special way. It is also hard to overlook the special rapport which I had with President al-Asad for years, during which many important events in the history of our Arab people have taken place.

President Mubarak said that such special relations make a good case for why the two countries should behave toward each other in a particular way despite any differences of opinion. any difference in views, Mubarak said, will necessarily be on methods and means rather than goals and ends. In other words, these are tactical and not strategic differences, Mubarak noted, pointing out that maintaining a certain minimum of decorum is a goal that can only be achieved by efforts by both sides and not by one side only.

President Mubarak said: Regardless of how eager we are to have a working relationship with Syria, we can accomplish nothing if Syria does not show a reciprocal desire. The way to achieve such a task would be to establish channels for direct communication and dialogue between the two sides on all issues of common concern.

President Mubarak said: This is what I told President al-Asad when I chanced to meet him during the ICO summit meeting in Kuwait in January 1986. There is no need for mediation by third parties or individuals who think they can work miracles. Actually, in many instances mediation has undermined the very cause of improving relations, for some mediators have misrepresented the situations and were not exact in their account of events or relay of information.

In some instances, people even undertook mediation efforts without being asked to and without anyone's knowledge that they would embark on any mediation. Naturally, matters of state cannot be handled in such a flawed manner.

AL-AHRAM asked President Mubarak if there is hope for improved ties between Egypt and Libya. He replied: In principle, the general rules I mentioned regarding ties between Egypt and any Arab countries apply to Libya as well. But in the real world it is not quite so. We have to have unmistakable evidence that the other party is faithfully moving in the desired direction. No such evidence has been forthcoming, despite all the opportunities which arose during the past years.

President Mubarak said that if the question was referring to reports of mediation by some Arab brothers to improve the atmosphere of Egyptian-Libyan relations, the course of this mediation is absolutely discouraging so far. The brothers who undertook such a mediation have themselves discovered this and are shocked.

President Mubarak said that last Ramadan Colonel al-Qadhdhafi approached an Arab figure for whom we have much respect and appreciation: my brother His Excellency Shaykh Zayid Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE.

The colonel asked Shaykh Zayid to mediate between Libya and Egypt and the shaykh obliged out of a pan-Arab sense of duty and a completely unselfish desire to see harmony in ties among Arab nations.

Shaykh Zayid, President Mubarak said, sent his minister of state for foreign affairs with a kind message to this effect. And, despite years of bitter experience, I decided, out of respect for Shaykh Zayid, to give his mediation every possible chance. We spoke positively to Zayid's envoy, but when this envoy went to Tripoli he was stunned by the unwillingness of the colonel to meet him or talk to him.

Mubarak said: Could anyone claim, after all that, that there is any seriousness to the Libyan talk about better ties? Is there still room for more mediation? Mubarak asked.

In his interview with AL-AHRAM, President Husni Mubarak added: Some people like to appoint themselves mediators and talk about plans and proposals. These mediations, however, do not stand on firm ground and they are often fabricated and do not conform to the facts and reality.

Mubarak further said: It is my opinion that the issue is not one of mediations and interventions by this or that party because the matter is much simpler. If Col al-Qadhdhafi is sincere in his intention to work for the improvement of relations, then he knows the road leading to this improvement. All he has to do is stop offending Egypt and its people. His experience should have taught him that such offenses and absurdities, which the ambitious and rancorous have uttered at various times, have not harmed Egypt but have backfired. Egypt is not an entity that can be shaken or affected at all by such trivialities.

President Mubarak expressed his hope that the colonel is aware that there is a certain limit beyond which he cannot go in offending Egypt, because Egypt grants a respite but it does not forget.

The president further said: There is a limit to what we can accept. If the object is to shout over a microphone in the most repungant voice, this will not benefit him at all and it will not harm Egypt. If he insists on wasting the Libyan people's money on absurdities and comical adventures in various parts of the world, then this is his business. However, he must abide by his limits and I believe that he knows these limits.

Asked whether peace between Iraq and Iran will be consolidated and if the Gulf area will resume the development process, President Mubarak said: A warm friendship, which developed over the years as a result of common experiences, ties me to my brother President Saddam Husayn. I am very proud of this noble Arab brother who is distinguished for his bravery, sincerity, and penetrating vision.

The president added: I emerged from my recent meeting with him in Baghdad fully convinced that Iraq wants peace and that it most sincerely seeks to establish it. If it had wanted to continue the war, it would not have been difficult for it to do so. Everybody knows that Iraq agreed to end the war when it was in a strong military position, permitting it to take the initiative when it had the upper hand.

President Mubarak further said: Iraq does not seek to take anything which does not belong to it. It also does not want to violate the rights of Iran or anybody else. Iraq believes that for peace to be firm and stable, it must

be based on respect for rights and duties, on abidance by legitimacy, and on refraining from imposing a fait accompli by force or threats.

Briefly, Iraq does not seek to commit aggression, but rather it defends its rights and sanctities. It is in this way defending the basic rights of the Arab nation and seeking to consolidate the principle of legitimacy and abidance by the rule of law. This is the only acceptable basis for governing relations among states.

The president added: The Iraqi-Iranian war has exhausted the Gulf area and drained its resources. It was our earnest wish that Iran would agree to end the war earlier in order to cut losses. What is important now is that all should turn their attention to the battle of reconstruction and to the resumption of the development process.

When I was in Baghdad I sensed a sincere desire to embark on such an action, which is no less ferocious than war. Anyone who mobilizes all his resources for building and reconstruction cannot be accused of impeding the peace process.

President Mubarak pointed out that Iraq was subjected to an unjust campaign in recent months and that feeble charges were made against it. Despite this, he said, Iraq stayed firm in its efforts to establish peace and it did not permit this campaign to drag it to side issues, which are of no avail.

Answering a question on the Palestinian uprising and Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] talks in Cairo, President Husni Mubarak told AL-AHRAM: The first fact that the Palestinian uprising has revealed, has been the Palestinian people's absolute rejection of the continued occupation in all its forms. this happened after some people inside and outside Israel propounded a false theory that all the Palestinians living under occupation ask is the improvement of their living conditions.

At the same time, the Palestinian people have demonstrated their awareness and ability to rise to the level of responsibility, when the same masses who carried out the uprising called for a political solution to the crisis. This means that the people living under occupation are struggling and resisting in order to attain peace, not to threaten any other people.

President Mubarak emphasized that this situation has provided an historic opportunity for the Middle East to move from the current situation of anxiety and instability to a new situation in which creative coexistence among all the peoples of the region would be realized.

He said: We look at this region and our hearts are filled with sorrow and pain when we see the loss of life and destruction of resources at a time when other regions are making great strides toward development, progress, and the assimilation of modern technology, which has become a necessity of life in this modern era and without which it is impossible to make any progress. He wondered whether it is the fate of these peoples to waste their resources and capabilities in futile pursuits.

President Husni Mubarak added: My discussions with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat revolved around the options available to the Arabs to push the situation onward toward peace.

He added: I was concerned to clarify two points which I believe are very important in this regard. The first is that the PLO, now that it has assumed full responsibility, must make very accurate calculations before it makes any move. Its responsibility is no longer restricted to adopting protesting or objecting stances. It must take the daring and positive steps which are required for the sake of the Palestinian people's future.

Before the PLO adopts any particular decision, it must take into account the effects and echoes in various circles. The PLO no longer speaks only to the Palestinian people or to the Arab peoples. It now addresses all the countries which support Palestinian rights and those countries which are still hesitating to do so.

President Husni Mubarak added that the second point is that any rational Palestinian policy must acknowledge the special nature of the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship and the fact that Jordan has a basic role to play in attaining peace. He noted that it is wrong to imagine that such a Jordanian role would diminish the Palestinian one. Actually, he said, it supports and strengthens the Palestinian role because Jordan is an Arab country whose king enjoys respect in various parts of the world.

He said the Jordanian monarch has the power to positively influence the stances of numerous countries. The president added that it is certain that there is no conflict between Jordanian and Palestinian interests. Both sides have a definite interest in achieving Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the establishment of a Palestinian state that would be linked with Jordan by a relationship determined by the two peoples. He noted that in addition Jordan has long borders with Israel which must be secured and defended.

President Mubarak said: I have concluded from talks I have had with His Majesty King Husayn and the Palestinian brothers that the allegations claiming that there is no Arab partner in the peace process are false. He declared that the next few days will witness a reinforcement of the presence of such an Arab partner, who has the ability to represent the Arab position in peace negotiations.

He added that Israel must reach a decision and proclaim that it is choosing the path of peace and is willing to accept its consequences and commitments. He

announced that the Arab partner exists and is willing to make positive moves. The other party must now make a step forward and stop hesitating, he said.

In his interview with AL-AHRAM, President Mubarak referred to Egyptian-Sudanese relations, saying: We support our brothers in Sudan with all our strength and in all fields. I believe that Egypt was the first state to rush to the aid of Sudan after the flood disaster. This was tantamount to a call by us to all the world to appreciate the difficulties through which Sudan was passing.

Mubarak added: I will not be exaggerating if I say that our call made the whole world turn to fraternal Sudan and provide it with urgent aid. I have heard that some in Sudan say Egypt has given us little support. They might not be aware that Egyptian support for Sudan so far places Egypt in second place among world states which provided aid, despite our known economic conditions.

The president further said: We were very happy with the contribution made by the Egyptian private sector and citizens. We hope our brothers in Sudan will overcome this crisis and we also hope that their problems in the south will end. We are helping as much as we can. I hope all these problems will end and conditions will stabilize in Sudan so that it may direct all its potential toward full development, progress, and prosperity.

On ways of avoiding the partitioning of Lebanon, President Mubarak said: I have only two words to say and I will say them briefly and very sincerely. To all the forces in Lebanon, I say: Take your hands off Lebanon and let its people manage their own affairs because they do not need anybody's tutelage or guidance. The management of its own affairs will not be difficult for the fraternal country, which is one of the seven founding members of the Arab League, and which has been in the forefront of Third World countries where democracy developed and flourished.

Mubarak added: Those who want to control matters in Lebanon and exploit its tragedy to serve their own interests must understand that the partitioning of Lebanon will backfire and harm them sooner or later because giving free rein to the calls of partition and sectarian and racist segregation will not stop at specific political limits, but is bound, if it continues and grows, to sweep everybody in its path.

President Mubarak went on: It is our opinion that it is not important that I choose this or that man as the president of Lebanon or the speaker of its Chamber of Deputies. What is important is that I leave this choice to the Lebanese people to exercise it in a free and responsible manner.

Therefore, the deals which are concluded among external forces will only complicate the situation further and add fuel to the fire which has already burned all that is dry and green in this fraternal country.

He emphasized that Egypt stands alongside the Lebanese people with all their communities and factions for their right to a free choice and independent decision. He said: We are trying to plant this concept in all the influential circles.

President Mubarak requested the Arab leaders to agree to a special and urgent meeting to discuss the Lebanese question and adopt a firm decision concerning it. He emphasized that the Lebanese question is not one of courtesy to Syria or anyone else but it is a question of an Arab state which is being subjected to dismemberment after having been [word indistinct] by foreign interference.

He said: I say once more that after meeting to discuss the issue of Lebanon and what takes place there, the Arab leaders must adopt a clear decision in support of Lebanon. It must not be an emotional decision favoring this or that state but it must observe the interests of a fraternal state which has been subjected to all kinds of destruction and devastation.

Answering a question about Egypt's relations with the two superpowers, President Mubarak said that these relations are based on the same principle that governs our relations with other countries which lie beyond the circles of our direct national and cultural affiliation.

He explained that according to this principle, Egypt is prepared to establish relations of understanding and cooperation with all countries and peoples without exception, as long as the other side is prepared to sincerely respect Egypt's sovereignty, dignity and independence. Egypt can never be a satellite state or taken for granted. The principles of equality and mutual respect must be observed in day-to-day dealings with it.

He affirmed that as long as the two superpowers observe this principle, we are prepared to extend bridges of cooperation with each one without any complexes or sensitivities, because such cooperation will be beneficial to us and to the formulation of relationships between the developing states and the superpowers.

He noted that the world is undoubtedly passing through a new stage unwitnessed since the start of World War II, a stage that demands from us all the adoption of a positive stand and contribution consistent with our capabilities and responsibilities.

President Mubarak explained that Egypt and the other nonaligned countries have been among the first to call for the lessening of international tension and the establishment of a common ground acceptable to the principal international powers.

Therefore, it is natural that the nonaligned states should play a tangible role in smoothing the path for detente and in adding certain touches to it. It is unbecoming of these

states to become spectators regarding developments which will definitely have profound effect on the issues of war and peace, backwardness and progress.

He said: We have a definite view of the role which the nonaligned group must play in this regard. We also have specific initiatives which we will undertake following consultations with the parties concerned. I raised these ideas for discussion in the talks which I held with the Yugoslav leaders during my recent visit to Belgrade.

Regarding Egyptian-U.S. relations, President Mubarak said that our relations with the United States are characterized by friendship and cooperation. For the sake of history and the truth, I must say that the United States does not try to impose any decision on us. It does not seek to restrict our freedom of action and choice, nor does it try to impose on us any field of cooperation that is incompatible with our interests and views.

He added: In this regard, we find that the cooperation between the two countries constitutes a positive phenomena that will benefit the two peoples and does not harm anyone. He explained that this cooperation is not limited to bilateral relations. It has often benefited friendly third parties.

On several occasions I contacted President Reagan and his senior aides on matters pertaining to Arab, Islamic, or African states, and the U.S. response was often helpful.

Regarding French President Francois Mitterrand's impending visit to Egypt, President Mubarak said, at the end of his interview with AL-AHRAM, that President Mitterrand is a first-class statesman who has broad experience and a comprehensive view of international and regional conditions. He is a close friend, and I am proud of the relationship that we have established over the years.

He added that, undoubtedly, one of the factors that deepen this relationship is the close proximity between the two countries' views on many international issues, such as those pertaining to international peace and security, the settlement of international and regional conflicts, and cooperation between industrial and progressive northern states and the developing Third World countries.

Therefore, I find myself agreeing with President Mitterrand in the views he presents and the perspectives from which he views many important problems.

Jordanian Trade Minister Visits, Meets Leaders

NC1710220388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—Hamdi al-Tabba', Jordanian minister of industry and trade, arrived in Cairo tonight at the head of a delegation for a 5-day official visit to Egypt.

Minister of International Cooperation Dr Maurice Makramallah welcomed the Jordanian minister upon his arrival.

Discusses Economic Cooperation

JN1810214388 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo—Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi al-Tabba' affirmed that the specialized sides in Jordan and Egypt are continuously studying the required methods to develop bilateral trade exchange and economic cooperation. In an interview with PETRA after his talks with Egyptian ministers of international cooperation and economy, he said that the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Holding Company will participate with Jordanian and Egyptian sides in specific, and Arab sides in general, to start large projects in the two countries.

He added that the Jordanian and Egyptian Governments support the establishment of the above-mentioned company and are preparing the infrastructure and studies concerning it to open the door for investors. The capital of this company is now about $50 million.

In the field of trade exchange, Al-Tabba' said: There are many channels to widen and develop this exchange through an equitable deal the size of which is now set at $110 million for the two sides and whose implementation has started. Among its articles are exporting Jordanian cement to Egypt and Egyptian aluminium to Jordan, in addition to the public share and allocations for trade centres and exhibits which will be held in Amman and Cairo. He added that the size of trade exchange between Egypt and Jordan now amounts to $250 million.

On industrial cooperation, the minister of trade and industry said: There is industrial coordination between the two countries. One of the decisions of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee is to give the ministers of industry the task of studying the methods of developing this coordination. He said that this topic will be discussed tomorrow with Egyptian Minister of Industry Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab.

Joint Committee With YAR Holds Meetings

NC1710203288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1905 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—Egyptian-YAR talks opened at the prime minister's office in Cairo this evening, beginning the first series of meetings of the Higher Egyptian-YAR Joint Committee.

The talks began with a meeting between Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and YAR Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, who head their countries' delegations to the talks. After the approximately 30-minute meeting, members of the two delegations joined the prime ministers for an expanded session. [passage omitted]

In the first session of talks, which lasted 2 hours, the conferees discussed the groundwork for increased cooperation and coordination between Egypt and the YAR in light of the agreement reached during President Husni Mubarak's visit to Sanaa earlier this year.

Dr Sidqi said afterward that the committee had reviewed the excellent relations between the two countries and discussed ways to promote cooperation in all fields, in line with the brotherly ties linking the two fraternal peoples.

Sidqi noted that the two countries agreed to conclude an economic cooperation accord at the end of the talks. They also decided to study a draft agreement on increasing the volume of bilateral trade, to be signed by the ministers concerned once the study is complete, as well as to examine a draft agreement relating to the organization of labor in the two countries.

Sidqi stated that the conferees studied the general outline of a draft agreement on social insurance between the two countries and reviewed a protocol for cultural and educational cooperation, which will be examined further in light of the higher committee's discussions and signed afterward as part of the effort to increase bilateral cooperation.

The conferees also discussed the possibility of concluding equal trade deals between Egypt and the YAR, he added.

For his part, 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani stated that, at the outset of the session, an agreement was signed establishing the Higher Egyptian-YAR Joint Committee. The committee is beginning its work on the directives of presidents Husni Mubarak and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, he said.

The YAR prime minister added that the committee had reviewed ways of promoting the excellent relations between the two countries and consolidating and diversifying bilateral cooperation.

Technical committees at the level of specialists from both sides will meet tomorrow, Tuesday, preparatory to a final session of talks on the following day, Wednesday.

Final Session Concludes

NC1910144388 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] The final session of the higher Egyptian-YAR joint committee was held at the Egyptian prime minister's office in Cairo this morning. The session was chaired by Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani. The session was preceded by a short private meeting between the two prime ministers.

During the session the two prime ministers signed an agreement on economic and technical cooperation and encouraging and protecting investments, another agreement on scientific and technological cooperation, and a third agreement on regulating the use of manpower. They also signed protocols for cooperation in education, agriculture, and health.

YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani said that a timetable has been agreed upon to implement these agreements. Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi lauded the relations between the two countries and declared that a YAR delegation will arrive in Cairo in November and that an Egyptian economic delegation will travel to Sanaa in December to study joint economic projects.

The higher Egyptian-YAR joint committee will hold its next session in Sanaa at the beginning of next year.

Meanwhile, a press communique has been issued on the meetings of the higher Egyptian-YAR joint committee. The communique indicates that the committee reviewed the situation in the Arab world and in the world at large.

It also reviewed the best methods to strengthen bilateral cooperation, especially in the economic field; increase trade and cooperation in the fields of industry, electricity, energy, petroleum, maritime and air transport, housing, and reconstruction; and cooperation in the fields of social security, information, tourism, and culture.

YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani has addressed an invitation to Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi to visit the YAR. The date of the visit will be fixed later.

YAR Leader on Arab Issues

NC2010083688 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Interview with YAR Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani by Siham al-Buluk carried within the "Dialogue With Official" program in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Buluk] I will begin this interview by welcoming His Excellency the YAR Prime Minister. My first question to you is what are the most important results of the meetings of the higher Egyptian-Yemeni Committee?

['Abd al-Ghani] Thank you. Indeed through our discussions we sensed a great desire on the part of our brothers in the Arab Republic of Egypt to bolster cooperation in the political, economic, and cultural fields. The strengthening of bilateral trade cooperation was one of the most important issues examined during our talks.

In this connection, we will, God willing, exchange trade delegations comprising businessmen and representatives of public institutions from the two countries to discuss ways and means by which trade exchanges can be promoted between the two fraternal countries.

[Al-Buluk] As is known, education is one of the important fields in which Egypt participates in the YAR. How do you envisage future scientific cooperation between Egypt and Yemen?

['Abd al-Ghani] Actually, our cooperation with Egypt in this field is quite vast. Well over 10,000 Egyptian teachers are involved in this noble service in almost every Yemeni village and at all stages of schooling. We seek their great help in this and they are performing a tremendous duty in serving Yemen.

[Al-Buluk] Your Excellency Prime Minister of the YAR: The election of the Shura Council in July marked a real democratic experience. What is your assessment of this experience and how far has it gone?

['Abd al-Ghani] The formation of the Shura Council in July was the culmination of the democratic process in Yemen. It represents a realization of the objectives of the 26 September revolution, which was ignited for the sake of achieving democratic rule and the people's rule. Over 1 million Yemenis participated in the elections, which were free, and elected representatives to this council. These elections were ideal for Yemen and an elite segment of the Yemeni youth was elected.

[Al-Buluk] Your Excellency the YAR Prime Minister, we are aware that fraternal Yemen has made strides in the development field. Could Your Excellency inform us about development in the YAR?

['Abd al-Ghani] Thank you. Actually, we have made great strides in this field. We began by drawing up two 5-year development plans and [words indistinct]. We have achieved high rates in this field. We hope to achieve an annual development rate of more than 8 percent. This is in addition to the oil policy. All revenues from oil investment will be utilized in the fields of agriculture and industry.

[Al-Buluk] With regard to the oil discoveries, and given the YAR's great progress in finding oil, is there any intention on the part of Yemen to participate in OAPEC or OPEC?

['Abd al-Ghani] Thank you very much. We have only begun to think about this as we are still in the 1st year of production. The daily quantity does not exceed the still modest level of 180,000 barrels. Although we are still only in the 1st year of produciton, we might think of joining OAPEC or OPEC if this quantity is increased in the future, God willing.

However, the faithful policy which was declared by His Excellency President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih stipulates that all investments should be utilized in the development field, particularly in agriculture and industry.

[Al-Buluk] Your Excellency YAR Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, we know that an historic agreement was reached between the YAR and South Yemen last May. What prospects are there for cooperation between the two countries?

['Abd al-Ghani] There already is an excellent degree of cooperation between the two countries. Meetings are taking place between the leaders of the two countries, who are working to reunite the two parts of Yemen. [passage omitted]

[Al-Buluk] We want to take this opportunity to talk about some of the problems confronting our Arab world. Let us talk begin by discussing the Palestinian issue. We know that the Palestinian uprising is about to complete its 1st year. What does Your Excellency have to say in this regard, and what can be done to reinforce this uprising at the Arab level?

['Abd al-Ghani] This uprising is, indeed, the best action that has taken place in the occupied land. It proves that the Palestinian people do not accept occupation and will struggle by all means to expel the Israeli occupier. We support this uprising with all the strength we possess, because it is necessary to liberate the occupied Arab territories. We must all support this uprising so that a Palestinian state can be established over Palestinian soil under the leadership of the PLO. [passage omitted]

[Al-Buluk] What is Your Excellency's opinion on the establishment of a Palestinian state or government?

['Abd al-Ghani] We support whatever the Palestinians want. The establishment of a Palestinian government is a Palestinian affair. They will announce such a government at a time appropriate for them. We support whatever option the Palestinian people choose. [passage omitted]

[Al-Buluk] We would like to ask Your Excellency about the situation in Lebanon, a country presently in an unenviable situation of no government, no Chamber of Deputies, no president. What is the way to salvation in Lebanon? What are your wishes for Lebanon?

['Abd al-Ghani] I wish for the Lebanese brothers to solve their problems by themselves. We support them in their efforts to solve their problems. They know better than others how their problems should be solved. Of course, we support Lebanon's unity. We support them in all of their endeavors to achieve this objective. Partition, God forbid, will be a catastrophe for the Arab nation.

[Al-Buluk] The Iraq-Iran war, which posed a direct threat to the Gulf region, has ended or its about to end, thank God. How does Your Excellency envisage the future in the Gulf region following the conclusion of the war?

['Abd al-Ghani] Thank you. We have expressed our great satisfaction with the implementation of the cease-fire between the two Muslim, neighboring countries. We hope that the negotiations will continue to the end in accordance with Resolution 598 and that permanent peace will be achieved and security will prevail in the Gulf region. Such a development will be in the interest of all of the countries of the region.

[Al-Buluk] What can you reveal about the YAR's policy and its cooperation with its Arab sister states in the various fields?

['Abd al-Ghani] Thank you very much. Our foreign policy is firm, particularly in the Arab sphere. We are for Arab solidarity and the unity of the Arab rank. We are doing our best to unite the stands of the Arab nation for that nation's good. We believe that any step in this direction is in the interest of the Arab nation. The important factor is not the number of documents issued, but their implementation, as well as serious work for the good of the Arab nation.

[Al-Buluk] Mr Prime Minister: Your Excellency listens, as we do, to the strongly worded statements made by the Israeli leaders, particularly the Likud leaders. We know that they are approaching new elections. What is Your Excellency's view about these strongly worded staements? How can we Arab exploit the election period to promote the Palestinian issue?

['Abd al-Ghani] The aim of the Arab nation is to liberate the Arab territories. We must not be frightened by any intransigent statements made by the Israelis. The unity and solidarity of the Arab nation can withstand such statements, and anything that comes from the Israeli enemy.

[Al-Buluk] Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, we would like to ask about Yemen's relations with the great powers.

['Abd al-Ghani] Our foreign policy stems from the objectives of the 23 September revolution. We follow a nonaligned policy, and, as a result of our policy, we maintain good relations with the Soviet Union and the United States. [passage omitted]

[Al-Buluk] Mr Prime Minister, we have talked about Egyptian-Yemeni relations. However, at the conclusion of our interview, I would like your impression of your visit to Cairo.

['Abd al-Ghani] It has been a long time since I visited Cairo. I am very much impressed with the great progress that is taking place in Cairo in the building and planning spheres. I am very pleased to see the great progress which is being made under the leadership of President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

YAR Prime Minister Departs

NC1910161188 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Excerpts] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani this afternoon. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, who said the YAR prime minister conveyed an oral message from YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to President Mubarak. [passage omitted]

The YAR prime minister left Cairo this evening at the end of his official visit to Egypt.

Media Agreement Signed With Pakistan

NC1810110588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 18 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—A protocol for cooperation between the Egyptian Radio and Television Union and the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation was signed at the Information Ministry this morning. Husayn 'Anan, chairman of the Egyptian Radio and Television Union, signed the agreement for Egypt, and Mohammad Yusuf, Pakistani under secretary of information and broadcasting, signed it on behalf of Pakistan.

Under the agreement, the two sides will exchange radio and television programs reflecting cultural, social, and economic aspects in both countries. The two parties will also exchange radio and television features on religious occasions, news programs, songs, and folklore musical shows. Both parties will share technical expertise in the various fields of broadcasting. [passage omitted]

Joint Scientific Protocol Signed With USSR

NC1910131988 Cairo MENA in English 1303 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, Oct 19 (MENA)—Egypt and the Soviet Union signed here today a joint scientific cooperation protocol.

The protocol includes exchanging scientific expertise between the two countries for two years.

The Egyptian-Soviet Committee for Joint Economic, Trade, Scientific and Technical Cooperation had recommended in its meeting held in Moscow in May, that the Egyptian Scientific Research Academy implement and sign together with the Soviet National Committee for Sciences and Technology the joint scientific cooperation protocol.

Arab Fund Chairman Meets Officials, Departs

NC1710172588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1643 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—'Abd al-Latif al-Hamad, chairman of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, left Cairo this evening after a 4-day visit to Egypt, during which he was received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

During his stay, he held discussions with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi on the fund's possible contribution to financing development projects in Egypt. He also held talks aimed at boosting and expanding cooperation between Egypt and the fund with Eng Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy; Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development; and Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation. Dr 'Ubayd saw Al-Hamad off at Cairo Airport.

Arab Fund Plans Reviewed

NC1910072888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2300 GMT 18 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper says that the talks with 'Abd al-Latif al-Hamad, chairman of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development [AFESD], in Cairo have yielded important results, foremost of which is the Fund's readiness to finance alone or with other Arab funds projects that are ready for implementation.

In its Wednesday edition, the paper notes that the AFESD has asserted its obligation to implement a number of projects in various fields including electricity projects. It has also agreed to contribute $100 million to the Northern Dumyat electricity project and to finance a $130 million paper mill project. The fund also agreed to set up a find to develop facilities in Egyptian tourist areas, with a view to organizing and developing all these areas with $500 million in capital, of which Egypt, the AFESD, and other Arab funds will have shares.

The fund also agreed to finance the feasibility study for a project to enlarge the Suez Canal. Furthermore, the fund asserted its readiness to assist Egyptian industrial projects being implemented in the Arab region, with emphasis on high quality and competitive prices. It would also finance the sugar industry projects in Egypt, especially if this industry were to depend upon domestic workers.

The paper points out that Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and heir apparent Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah devoted part of their meeting with the IMF delegation to discussing the IMF stand toward Egypt. They urged the IMF to show substantial flexibility in its negotiations with Egypt and asked it to exert efforts to ensure support and backing for Egypt rather than pressure on it.

The Kuwaiti amir, the heir apparent, and finance minister Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi had received the IMF delegation led by the fund's director to discuss possibility contributing to increasing IMF revenues and to discuss its future. The amir had expressed Kuwait's readiness to support any program being planned to assist Egypt and reiterated his previous proposals at the United Nations where he urged creditor nations to forgo interests payments and part of their debts.

The paper reports that the Kuwaiti finance minister has contacted Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development, to assure him of Kuwait's principled stand, which calls for full support to Egypt.

Sidqi Cited on Capital Investment Companies

JN1910203788 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 18 Oct 88 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has said that the capital investment companies which do not adjust their positions will be legally obligated to return to depositors the amounts of money that they have previously received from them.

He added: The companies which seek to adjust their positions in accordance with the new law must do so before 8 November and must also announce that they will continue in business. Likewise, he affirmed that the companies which will discontinue business and fail to adjust their positions must also announce this before this date.

In response to reporters' questions on the fate of the capital investment companies and that of the money deposited in these companies, the prime minister said: The government supports the law pertaining to the capital investment companies. He indicated that there are some negative aspects regarding one or two companies in particular.

Dr Sidqi added: The government is monitoring and following up the issue with interest. All details of the law will be implemented in a manner that makes no room for exceptional treatment to any party in this regard.

Badr Denies Flight of Investment Company Head

PM1810091388 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Oct 88 p 1,2

[Unattributed report: "Interior Minister to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Al-Rayyan Has Not Escaped and We Are Keeping an Eye on Him"]

[Excerpt] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—Egyptian Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr has denied reports about the escape abroad of Ahmad Tawfiq al-Rayyan, owner of the Al-Rayyan investment companies. He confirmed that Al-Rayyan was still living in Cairo under the watchful eyes of the authorities.

He told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the rumors that the Interior Ministry has canceled the decision placing the names of the owners of the major investment companies on the list of people not allowed to leave the country was untrue because the state has not and would not prevent any of them from leaving the country if circumstances necessitated such a departure provided the information such a person submits are proved to be genuine.

The Egyptian interior minister added that in his own personal opinion the investment companies are a bunch of outlaws although they do have rights and legal status which cannot be denied. The economic policy pursued in Egypt is not against these companies, he said, but if they break the law then its provisions would apply to them. [passage omitted]

Al-Wafd Leader Criticizes Various Policies

JN1710163388 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 15 Oct 88 p 1

[Text] Al-Wafd Party leader Fu'ad Siraj al-Din has held the government responsible for endangering the money of the capital investment companies' customers because of the strong measures it took against these companies. In his address to the Al-Wafd youth leadership at the governorates' committees, Siraj al-Din asked: Where has the government been over the long 8 years during which these companies were in business? Why has it let these companies collect milions of pounds?

He stressed the government's failure to curb the rise in the cost of living and prices due to its wrong policies and printing money, which has led to a rise in the inflation. He pointed out his consent to a project to set up a special fund to support the activities of youths at the republic level, with party members making donations to finance this fund.

The Al-Wafd leader stressed the party's support for workers and its adoption of their causes. He denounced the law banning involvement of university students in politics inside universities. This law, he said, was aimed at protecting the regime. He also denounced attacks by police against student and warned the government against the spread of unemployment among youths.

He said that the opposition parties' decision to boycott local elections was due to the regime's insistence on holding the elections on the basis of the absolute block and the nonexistence of judicial guarantees for the integrity of the elections.

Siraj al-Din stressed that Al-Wafd—party and newspaper—reject Interior Minister Zaki Badr's practices. He called on the masses to inform the party or newspaper of any encroachments by the police or any other party. He also warned the government and rulers against the absence of democracy.

He emphasized that Egypt is currently witnessing a sham democracy. He described this democracy as more decorations, slogans, speeches, and statements. He asserted that the Algerian incidents came as a natural result of coercion, terrorism, suppression of freedom, and lack of democracy.

The Al-Wafd leader warned against the danger of launching the Israeli satellite to spy against the Arab countries and their military facilities. He also stressed the party's support for the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

He said the party has supported the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories since it broke out. He promised to visit the Al-Qalyubiyah and the Al-Minufiyah Governorates soon. He pointed out he will deliver an important speech on 13 November on the occasion of jihad day. The speech will deal with all domestic and foreign issues.

'Islamic Extremist' Students Stage Strike

NC1910155588 Cairo MENA in English 1430 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Asyut, Oct 19 (MENA)—A number of students belonging to Islamic extremist groups staged a sit-in strike in the Faculty of Medicine and the university premises here since yesterday.

A number of girl students went on a hunger strike in protest for a decision by the Asyut University administration transferring about 140 girl students from a building inside the university premises to another building outside it.

Major General Jamil Abu al-Dhahab, assistant interior minister for the Asyut Region, is to meet later with Acting Asyut Security Director Major General Hasan 'Ubaydu to discuss means of tackling the situation and evacuating the students.

Libya

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives

LD2010074788 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0713 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Text] Brother Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, Iranian deputy foreign minister, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in the Great Jamahiriyah yesterday.

In a statement to JANA, Brother Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam expressed his pleasure over this visit. He said that his presence in our revolutionary and Muslim country falls within the framework of the exchange of views between the Jamahiriyah and Iran on the solution of issues of common interest.

In his statement, the Iranian deputy foreign minister added that relations between the Jamahiriyah and Iran are strong. We are hoping to consolidate and develop them further. He pointed to the continuous cooperation and coordination between the two countries and revolutions in the struggle against imperialism throughout the world.

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Concludes Visit

LD1910091888 Tripoli JANA English 0817 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [October] 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mr. Yasir 'Arafat left Tripoli yesterday afternoon after concluding his visit to Great Al-Jamahiriyah.

Sudan

DUP Delegation Confers With Garang Supporters

EA1910161088 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Oct (SUNA)—The Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) delegation returned yesterday evening from Addis Ababa after holding talks with John Garang's movement there.

Mr Sid Ahmad al-Husayn, deputy secretary-general of the DUP and head of delegation, said that an agreement was reached on all steps leading to the convening of the constitutional conference to solve the country's problems.

Mr al-Husayn said in a press statement that a meeting would be held between DUP leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani and John Garang 3 (?weeks) after the agreement for the purpose of discussing the details of the agreement. He did not, however, mention the venue for the meeting.

The delegation included Muhammad [word indistinct] Ahmad and Dr Ma'mun Sinadah, both of whom worked as [words indistinct] in the Foreign (? Ministry) in the previous coalition government. Others in the delegation were General [word indistinct] Yusuf [word indistinct] Yusuf and 'Abd al-Hakim (Tifatar).

The movement's delegation to the talks was led by Lam Akol, alternate member of the movement's Military-Political High Command; Yusuf Kuwah, and alternate member of the movement's Military-Political High Command; 'Abd al-'Aziz Hasan al-Hilu; William Deng, and Mario Maro.

The talks lasted 3 days.

SPLA-DUP Issue Statement

EA1910163088 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] The meeting between the SPLM-SPLA and the DUP [Democratic Unionist Party] delegations ended in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, on 17th October 1988. The meeting ended with a joint communique issued by both sides, the text of which reads as follows:

Joint statement by the two delegations of the Democratic Unionist Party, DUP, and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Sudan People's Liberation Army, SPLM-SPLA:

In a continuation of the meeting that was held in Addis Ababa in the period from 18th to 20th August 1988, between the two delegations of the DUP—headed by Sid Ahmad al-Husayn, the deputy secretary-general of the DUP—and the SPLM-SPLA—headed by Commander Lam Akol Ajawin, alternate member of the SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command—the second meeting between the two delegations was held in Addis Ababa in the period from 15th to 17th October 1988.

The talks were characterized by a high sense of responsibility and frankness. Resolute in their determination to achieve peace through dialogue and motivated by their commitment to the unity of Sudan, the two sides reached agreement covering all the steps leading to the holding of the national constitutional conference not later than the end of December 1988.

The details of what has been agreed upon will be made public in a meeting to take place between Sayyid Muhammad al-Mirghani leader of the DUP, and Commander John Garang de Mabior, chairman of the SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command, within 3 weeks in a place that will be agreed upon after the necessary contacts are made.

Signed in Addis Ababa, on the 17th day of October in the year 1988. For the DUP, Sid Ahmad al-Husayn, deputy secretary general of the DUP. For the SPLM-SPLA, Commander Lam Akol Ajawin, alternate member of the SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command.

SPLA To Reduce Border Military Presence

EA1910210988 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Reliable sources reaching "Bright Star" campaign command from Juba today confirm that more than 300 Sudanese soldiers who fled from Ikotos on 17 October 1988, when the SPLA captured the garrison, are now in Uganda.

These sources say that contacts are underway between the Sudan Government and Ugandan Government for the repatration of these soldier refugees. This is a repeat of the Kapoeta disaster when more than 500 Sudanese soldiers fled to Uganda when the SPLA captured Kapoeta last 12 January 1988.

The Ikotos affair is being played down to avoid embarassment to the Sudan. But reliable SPLA sources in Juba are keeping "Bright Star" command informed about the movement and handling of the refugee soldiers.

In a statement to Radio SPLA, the "Bright Star" campaign command said today that the command was satisfied that these (?fugitive) soldiers of former Ikotos garrison no longer pose a threat to bright campaign operation in Eastern Equatoria.

The SPLA is, therefore, as of today reducing its military presence on the border.

Al-Mahdi on Kenya, Policy on Militias

EA1810204788 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Brother comrades-in-arms and listeners everywhere: We present the second and last part of the press interview with Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi published by AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH on Thursday 13 October. The first part was broadcast last Friday. [passage omitted]

On Kenya and support for the rebellion, the prime minister was asked: It seems that diplomatic efforts have not been able to stop Kenyan support for the rebellion. How do you see this matter?

He replied: The Kenyan role is totally different from the Ethiopian role in support of rebellion. I believe that the Kenyan role is represented by complete agreement with the idea of the rebellion itself. By the logic of this support, the Kenyans are extremely fragile.

Kenya is tribally diverse. Thirty-five percent of the population is Muslim. And it has an extremely fragile regime. We are fully convinced that Kenya persistently provides facilities to the rebellion, and we can trace this path to Kenya.

We have informaton and evidence which confirms that Kenya provides facilities to the rebels. We have told them time and time again to guard against stonethrowing when their house is made of glass. We asked them not to respond to spurious and empty slogans. We stress to the Kenyans that our patience is not limitless.

On party and tribal militias, AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH asked Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi: There has been much talk about armed militias—party and tribal—is there a clear policy on this question? And does the government acknowledge such militias? And what can be done to control them?

The prime minister replied: I don't believe that there are party militias in Sudan. The Ummah Party, for example [words indistinct] in certain circumstances in the past, during Numayri's rule. These elements were released when the reasons for that disappeared, and they were assigned to various civil jobs.

Anyone who has any information about party militias should come forward, because they are unlawful and against government policy. That is, the existence of any militias of a political nature and for political purposes is prohibited by law. If there are any political militias, they must be disbanded because they are contradictory to democracy and the rule of law.

As for tribal militias, this is a different matter, since they are spontaneous movements which appeared in response to attacks on them. Those who had been attacked prepared themselves to face the attack.

These militias are now operating within the framework of the Armed Forces Command in the areas where they operate in order to organize self defense according to the plan of the Military Command in the area. They are considered to be auxiliary forces and not militias. They are there to defend the tribes under the control of the Military Command.

On the regulations governing political action, he was asked: Do you think political and journalistic practices in the country some times cross the red line?

Al-Sadiq replied: We are now working toward the registration of political parties and it will be emphasized that political parties must not call for religious, racial or separatist dissension, or serve foreign interests. The regulations will be drawn up so that political parties in Sudan will compete and dispute in areas other than these. Anything else would, if allowed, lead to the fragmentation of Sudan.

We believe this should be debated freely and democratically so as to arrive at an equation that would make the multiparty system free from treason against Sudan. We are also working on the idea that the press law should draw up regulations to prevent the propagation of dissension, lies, [words indistinct] stoogery in the press. [passage omitted]

Iranian Minister Briefs Al-Sarv on Peace Talks

LD1910200088 Tehran IRNA in English 1703 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 19, IRNA—Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Afro-Arab Affairs Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, currently in Khartoum, briefed Sudanese Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Taj al-Sarv on the latest developments in Iran-Iraq peace talks.

During the meeting held Tuesday, Sheykh ol-Eslam told Al-Sarv the Iraqi regime continues to hinder peace talks by raising prerequisites in a bid to prolong the stalemate.

Al-Sarv in reply thanked Sheykh ol-Eslam for the briefing and called for further information on the talks and their progress.

Oman

Iran's Sheykh ol-Eslam Arrives, Opens Talks

LD1610152488 Tehran IRNA in English 1459 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 16, IRNA—Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Afro-Arab Affairs Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam arrived in Muscat, Oman from Kenya Saturday.

Sheykh ol-Eslam discussed current issues of the Persian Gulf region, the Arab world and international developments with Omanese Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf ibn al-'Alawi 'Abdallah in Muscat.

The two sides stressed that the withdrawal of foreign fleets from the Persian Gulf will greatly help the security of the region.

Al-'Alawi also expressed his country's keenness to cooperate with Iran in all areas.

Sheykh ol-Eslam had earlier visited Kenya and is scheduled to leave for Sudan after talks with Omani officials.

Qatar

UK Minister Arrives To Discuss Bilateral Ties

JN2010090688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0555 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Text] Doha, 20 Oct (WAKH)—William Waldegrave, British minister of state for foreign affairs, [title as received] arrived in Doha this morning on a 3-day visit to Qatar at the beginning of a regional tour. The British minister of state is scheduled to meet with a number of senior Qatari officials to discuss bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

Saudi Arabia

Fahd Receives Message From UAE's Al Nuhayyan

LD1810052188 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2230 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, received a message from His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates.

The message was conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques, by Dr Mani ibn Sa'id al-Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, when he was received yesterday by King Fahd, may God support him, at his office at Al-Salam Palace.

United Arab Emirates

President Receives Messages From 'Awn, Al-Huss

JN1810205088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2010 GMT 18 Oct 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, received a telephone call from General Michel 'Awn today in which the latter paid tribute to the call made by his highness for the initiation of urgent Arab moves to save Lebanon from its crisis.

His Highness Shaykh Zayid reiterated his eagerness to see Lebanon's unity and stability preserved and maintained. His highness the president also received a thank-you cable from Dr Salim al-Huss voicing appreciation of the call made by his highness to support Lebanon and save it from the imminent danger which is threatening its unity.

Yemen Arab Republic

Minister Sees 'Real' Yemeni Unity Under Way

PM1910150588 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Oct 88 p 3

[Interview with Yahya al-'Arashi, minister of state for affairs of Yemeni unity, by Zaki Musa in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Musa] What has been the story of unity with the southern part [of Yemen] since the early attempts, what stages has it gone through, and what efforts are being made in this regard?

[Al-'Arashi] Actually, Yemeni unity is now something real on the ground and among the people. It has long been based on common cultural history, a common language, a common religion, as well as common social and cultural life. It is regrettable to see a government in Aden and another in Sanaa; each has its own regulations and principles.

That is why we are making efforts to overcome this. As you know, since the independence of the southern part on 30 November 1967 efforts have been focused on resolving the regrettable state of partition, because Yemeni struggle throughout contemporary history has been a common one. [passage omitted]

[Musa] It is known that previous agreements faltered, although the reasons are not known. Why did they falter, and to what extent can you benefit from previous experiments to make the 4 May agreement a success?

[Al-'Arashi] Any great work must face difficulties. The effective criterion here is how to overcome obstacles and problems hampering implementation in some cases. What boosts our optimism is the fact that whenever difficulties or problems face us, we overcome them,

resume our activities, and begin work again. This is characteristic of unionist action, which tends to overcome such matters. [passage omitted]

[Musa] Why did all the previous union agreements fail?

['Arashi] In fact the agreements did not fail completely. They may take a long time to implement, but there has been no failure. Ten years ago there was some mutual suspicion.

But in recent years matters have changed completely: first, because of the firm conviction that Yemeni unity can only be restored via dialogue and peaceful means; and second, because of the political stability prevailing in Yemen during the era of Brother President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Those 10 years have created a state of stability, enabling us to look into our problems both wisely and calmly in order to deal with them on the basis of understanding and nationalist principles. So the stability factor of has played an effective part in this regard.

Some people are now more convinced that Yemeni unity is our way, our fate, our destiny. The masses are aware that Yemeni unity is an important cause. [passage omitted]

[Musa] What are the broad lines of the draft constitution of the united state?

[Al-'Arashi] The broad lines determine how the united state will be, in terms of its political institutions, both legislative and executive; they also set down economic inclinations as well as the laws of the united state.

As you know, the constitution of any country lays down the foundations for practice at government, popular, supreme authority, and judiciary levels.

[Musa] Is this draft ready now?

[Al-'Arashi] Yes. The constitutional committee completed it several years ago. [passage omitted]

Arab Fund Finances Joint Electricity Project
JN1910155888 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] In the context of the joint efforts by both parts of the Yemeni homeland to achieve the reunification of Yemen—the hope and destiny of our Yemeni people—and in implementation of the Ramadan plan signed in the unity capital, Sanaa, by Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee in the southern part of the homeland, to carry out joint projects, two agreements were initialed at the Yemeni General Organization for Electricity today with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development to finance a project to link electricity between both parts of the homeland.

The agreements were signed for the northern part by Eng Jamal Muhammad 'Abduh, minister of electricty and water, for the southern part by Eng Mahmud Muhammad Tarmun, minister of energy and minerals, and for the Arab Fund for Economic and Social development by the fund's legal advisor.

The total amount of the two loans is 18 million Kuwaiti dinars [KD], or $65 million. Of this amount, 8 million KD were allocated for the project's installations in the northern part, and 10 million KD for the project's installations in the southern part.

The project consists of one 132 kilovolt high tension parallel line, 33 kilovolt transformer stations in Al-Rahidah, Al-Habilayn, Al-Turbah, and Al-Dali', and distribution networks in Al-Rahidah and Al—Turbah.

With the implementation of this project, the two parts of the homeland will be able to exchange electric power whenever necessary. Some 20,000 subscribers in both parts of the homeland will benefit from the project during its initial phase.

The project will stretch from Ta'izz, pass through Al-Rahidah and Al-Habilayn, and Lahij, and end up at Al-Huswah in Aden. Another line will branch off to supply electricity to the regions oif Al-Rahidah, Al-Turbah, Al-Habilayn, and Al-Dal'.

It is noteworthy that this is first joint project between both parts of the Yemeni homeland in the electricity field. The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development has previously financed joint projects between both parts of the homeland in the road, telecommunications, and geoglogical survey sectors.

The signing ceremony was attended by several officials of the Arab Fund, the Unity Affairs bureau, the Yemeni General Organization for Electricity, and the Electricity and Energy Authority in the southern part.

Deputy Prime Minister Returns From USSR
JN1910221088 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Hasan Muhammad Makki, deputy prime minister, member of the Standing Committee, head of the YAR

Committee for Peace and Solidarity, and his delegation arrived in Sanaa today after a visit to the USSR which lasted several days, upon the invitation of AAPSO.

In a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, Makki clarified that during his visit he conveyed a message from Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, secretary general of the General People's Congress, to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

He also met with first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and a number of ranking officials in the Foreign Ministry and AAPSO. He discussed the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

He said that the YAR Committee for Peace and Solidarity and the Soviet Committee for Solidarity coordinated on the issues to be discussed at the next AAPSO conference, which will take place in New Delhi in November.

UN Observers Group Commander Arrives 19 Oct

JN1910142388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1335 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Oct (INA)—SFRY General Slavko Jovic, commander of the U.N. Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group [UNIIMOG] arrived here this afternoon.

Jovic was received at the airport by the deputy UNIIMOG commander, Brigadier General Padel [name as received], a number of representatives of the committee for coordination with the UN observers, and the resident UN representative in Baghdad.

Gen Slavko Jovic is conducting shuttle trips between Baghdad and Tehran as part of the mission with which he was entrusted by the UN Security Council—the mission to supervise the UN observers who are overseeing the cease-fire in implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598.

Oil Minister Cited on Madrid OPEC Meeting

JN1910161088 Baghdad INA in English 1510 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 19, INA—Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi has urged both OPEC and non-OPEC countries to exert maximum efforts to find radical solutions for the problems they are facing and take the necessary steps to earnestly boost oil prices in order to safeguard the legitimate interests of their peoples on both short and long-terms bases.

Mr. al-Jalabi's call was made on the eve of tomorrow's joint meeting in Madrid involving Opec's long-term strategy and pricing committees.

Mr. al-Jalabi, who will lead the Iraqi delegation to the Madrid gathering, said the meeting will discuss the situation in the world oil market and the steps to be taken in the light of the recent price deterioration due to the oil glut resulting from the over-production by OPEC and non-OPEC countries and from the discounts offered by exporting countries.

"Iraq, motivated by its firm and principled policy and keenness over the legitimate interests of OPEC countries, will work at the Madrid meeting to boost OPEC's efforts to bring stability to the world oil market and halt price deterioration", the minister said.

Responding to a question on whether Iraq is ready to enter in a production agreement involving all OPEC members, Mr. al-Jalabi said "Iraq is ready to discuss any positive proposals in this connection which could realize our legitimate demands within a comprehenisve production agreement".

Departs for Meeting

JN2010095288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0640 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Oct (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim left for Madrid today leading a delegation to participate in the joint meeting of two ministerial committees entrusted with working out a long-term strategy for OPEC and following up prices in the world oil market.

The meeting, which begins in the Spanish capital today, will discuss the oil market situation and the steps which should be taken in light of the recent decline in prices as a result of the surplus in oil production, which is due to increased production.

Trade Minister Returns From Morocco, Romania

JN1710163788 Baghdad INA in English 1450 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 17, INA—Iraq's Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih returned to Baghdad last night concluding a tour that included both of Morocco and Romania.

During his visit to Morocco, Mr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih signed a joint minutes for economic, trade and technical cooperation at the conclusion of meetings of the Iraqi-Moroccan joint committee held in Rabat. The minutes provided for increasing cooperation in the fields of energy, oil, building and construction, industry and training of work forces.

The minutes also stipulated the increase of trade exchange volume through credit facilities offered by the Moroccan Government to finance its exports of commodities to Iraq by the amount of 100 million dollars, and holding an Iraqi-Moroccan week to promote goods for export from both countries.

The two sides also agreed on intensifying businessmen visits, organising existing relations between unions of chambers of commerce and industry and discussing the possibility of establishing joint projects to increase their revenues of hard currencies by exporting products of those projects.

During his visit to Romania, the minister held talks with the officials there, dealt with means of developing economic relations between the two countries. The minister also visited Bucharest fair where Iraq participates by a pavilion.

Suicide Car Bomb Attack Kills 7 IDF Soldiers

Hizballah Claims Strike

TA1910192388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Seven IDF soldiers were killed in a serious attack in southern Lebanon this morning. Eight other soldiers were injured. The families of the dead and wounded soldiers have been notified. The IDF spokesman reports that around noon, a booby-trapped car exploded near several Army vehicles about 300 meters north of the border crossing at Metulla.

The condition of the wounded soldiers is as follows: One is in critical condition, another is seriously wounded, one is suffering moderate injuries, and five are suffering slight injuries. Two Lebanese female civilians were also wounded.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that several jeeps arrived from Israeli territory, coming to a halt opposite other jeeps that arrived from the Lebanese side.

At that stage, a white Toyota suddenly appeared and exploded. Its driver was killed. It is believed that it was loaded with approximately 150 kg of explosives. It is unclear as yet how the vehicle could get so close to the Army vehicles. The moment it blew up, ammunition of various types, including grenades in the IDF vehicles, began to explode as well.

The soldiers who suffered slight injuries imperiled themselves while extricating their comrades who were seriously wounded. They operated under a barrage of exploding ammunition. Magen David Adom ambulances from Qiryat Shemona rushed to the scene and began to administer first aid.

The chief of staff and the defense minister arrived at the scene of the attack shortly after the incident. The chief of staff told our correspondent that this was a serious attack. We should remember that they are constantly trying to attack us, he added. He noted that he intends to conduct a detailed debriefing on the circumstances of the attack.

Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that Hizballah has assumed responsibility for the explosion of the car bomb. In an announcement the organization issued in Beirut, it stated that one of its fighters committed suicide when he was killed in the booby-trapped car close to an Israeli army convoy in the vicinity of Kafr Killa, about 1 km north of the Israeli border.

Shamir, Peres React to Attack

TA1910194588 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] The prime minister said this evening that Israel's confident and just hand will reach the murderers. We will annihilate the murderers' organizations, said Mr Shamir in reaction to the attack in the north. We will do everything to secure the safety of Israel. We grieve over the death of the best of our boys, the fighters, and sympathize with the families in their pain, said the prime minister.

Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, this evening expressed deep shock over the horrendous attack along the northern border. He said that as in the past, Israel will find the assassins and their bosses and will respond as warranted. Mr Peres sent his condolences to the families of the dead and wished the wounded a speedy recovery.

Rabin: Hizballah Not Immune

TA1910194288 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Speaking to our correspondent, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that we will find every murderer, wherever he is. No one will be allowed to go scot-free. Those who send people on suicide missions and activate booby-trapped cars should realize that they will be required to foot the bill to the very last cent.

The defense minister expressed sorrow and sent his condolences to the bereaved families. He wished a speedy recovery to the wounded soldiers.

The defense minister added that the purpose of the security zone is to prevent attacks against the northern settlers and their homes. Today's suicide attack in the security strip near Metulla may have prevented a serious catastrophe in the northern settlements, but the IDF paid a heavy and painful price for it.

The defense of the northern settlements and local residents requires an extreme effort by the IDF and other branches of the security forces. The IDF has been standing the test of defending the north day and night, doing a faithful job. Unfortunately, sometimes a high price is exacted of it.

The defense minister added that Hizballah, which assumed responsibility for the crazy suicide, can prosper in a chaotic land such as Lebanon. Yet the fact that no one is responsible for that country, that it has no ruler and no administration, does not render Lebanon or the madmen of Hizballah immune.

IDF, SLA Investigate

TA1910201588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Excerpt] IDF and South Lebanese Army [SLA] forces are conducting a thorough investigation of the circumstances of the attack that took place this afternoon north of the Metulla border crossing point, which left seven IDF soldiers dead and eight wounded. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the investigators are currently trying to track the route taken by the booby-trapped car.

Major General Yosi Peled, commander of the Northern Command, said that two scenarios are possible: Either the car, loaded with the explosives, arrived from the north; or it was readied in a village in the security zone.

Police Criminal Identification Division experts have completed collecting the pieces from the booby-trapped car, at times picking up pieces hundreds of meters away. [passage omitted]

Military Completes Debriefing

TA1910211388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that a short while ago the Northern Command completed the debriefing on the attack. That process was conducted by the commander of the Northern Command, senior officers on the Lebanese front, and soldiers who were there.

The investigation indicates that the Lebanese car did not follow the IDF vehicles. It was not in the convoy and was not parked on the shoulders of the road. Rather, it sprang forward suddenly, penetrated the line of military vehicles, and exploded. No one had spotted the car prior to the explosion. As far as could be determined, the car was occupied by only one person.

Our correspondent reports that in light of the debriefing, several procedures regarding instructions on travel inside and out of Lebanon via the border crossings will be amended. Security regulations will also be altered.

'Hundreds' Interrogated

TA2010055588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Text] Hundreds of Shi'ite villagers were interrogated in the South Lebanese security zone last night. This was reported to our correspondent Hayim Hecht by South Lebanese Army [SLA] Headquarters. Fearing IDF reprisals, many villagers from the northern section of the security zone fled their homes. Sources in the SLA believe that the car bomb operator was aided by local residents.

SLA Commander General Antoine Lahd told our correspondent that it is impossible to place a soldier at every corner to prevent the explosion of a booby-trapped car driven by a person determined to commit suicide. Nevertheless, SLA soldiers will now check vehicles at the checkpoints and on the roads in the security zone more stringently.

Shamir: Need To 'Hit Back'

TA2010062988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT Oct 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami at Shamir's residence—live]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Good morning, Mr Prime Minister.

[Shamir] Good morning.

[Ben-'Ami] What do you have to say this morning to the Hizballah organization and its members, who are close to Iran and who assumed responsibility last night for the terrorist operation in the security zone?

[Shamir] Yesterday, in the midst of our election campaign, we all received a very harsh reminder of the many perils Israel has to confront. Hizballah is one of the most radical terrorist organizations. Its cooperation with Palestinian terrorist organizations is well known. We all must be very alert and aware of the fact that Israel is constantly endangered from every side.

[Ben-'Ami] Sir, should the fact that the incident took place approximately 500 meters from the border fence, not far from Metulla, make us reconsider the way in which the security zone in South Lebanon operates?

[Shamir] I do not think this incident should raise doubts about the security zone's vital role, although it may point to a need to enact stricter security regulations regarding the procedures necessary to prevent the recurrence of such terrorist attacks.

[Ben-'Ami] Does the fact that we are now facing terrorism that is operating out of Lebanon signal anything regarding any weariness in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip?

[Shamir] I would not make the connection, except for the fact that both the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and those north of Israel share the same goal and are partners to the same conspiracy to harm Israel as badly as possible.

[Ben-'Ami] To conclude, Mr Shamir, you said yesterday that Israel's long arm will reach all the assassins.

[Shamir] I have no doubt that our arm will reach them, because we are obliged to hit back at the terrorists every time and every place they may be found. This is a most vital part of our defense. We owe it to ourselves, to our soldiers, and to our security.

[Ben-'Ami] Thank you very much, Mr Prime Minister.

Rabin: No Increase in IDF

TA2010075888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by moderator David Grossman and military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe—live]

[Text] [Grossman] Good morning, sir.

[Rabin] Good morning.

[Grossman] It may be assumed that the IDF will react. The prime minister has said so, and you yourself said yesterday that whoever sends suicide car operators must know he will have to pay his full dues. Is there a way to cope with Hizballah in a country like Lebanon?

[Rabin] Ever since the Cabinet made the decision to defend our northern border and settlements according to the policy we are presently pursuing, we have known that terrorism in Lebanon has not been liquidated. We must take action against it.

The way to act is by coupling offensive activities with defensive moves taken at our own initiative. With all the pain over yesterday's incident and despite the difficulties, we will continue to safeguard peace in the Galilee.

During the 3 years and 4 months in which the IDF has been deployed in the framework of the new policy, not one Israeli civilian has been killed or murdered as result of terrorism from Lebanon. Approximately 500 terrorists were killed during that period, and the IDF has lost 46 soldiers while defending peace for the Galilee.

The security zone has proven itself—even yesterday—as an area capable of safeguarding Israeli settlements and population from attack. The IDF has paid a painful price for achieving its goal of securing peace for the Galilee. We will find, expose, and punish those who perpetrated yesterday's horrible crime.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Defense Minister, in view of yesterday's event, would you say that it will become necessary in the near future to introduce a larger number of troops into the security zone? Can a wave of similar car bombs be expected now?

[Rabin] Over the past 40 months, approximately 18 attempts were made to penetrate into the security zone and detonate car bombs. They know they are incapable of introducing such a car into Israel. The purple line—the border—is the line which no car bomb and, as far as possible, no terrorist squad will be allowed to cross.

There is no need to increase the number of soldiers in the security zone. I believe the small number of IDF soldiers permanently deployed in the security zone, along with the increased size and operational capability of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], make the task possible.

It will be necessary, however, to examine the IDF soldiers' conduct—not in the posts, but along the routes within the security zone. This is our main conclusion. We will also continue to improve operational methods in the framework of the existing policy.

[Grossman] Minister Rabin, our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe is in our Tel Aviv studio. Perhaps you would like to expand on the subject of the improvement of the the IDF's security arrangements inside the security zone. Go ahead, Karmela.

[Menashe] Is it, nevertheless, possible to prevent the infiltration of car bombs? Do the existing procedures meet the needs?

[Rabin] We differentiate between two clear lines. One is the borderline between Israel and Lebanon, which is very well protected. In the past 40 months, only two or three squads managed to get through our warning systems and penetrate as much as several dozen or hundred meters. All of them were liquidated, with the exception of the hang glider which, approximately 1 year ago, succeeded in infiltrating by air and carrying out its evil intentions.

Otherwise, not one squad managed to reach its destination inside Israeli territory. Not one car bomb managed to infiltrate into Israel. This line marks the cutoff point.

The northern border of the security zone, however, is not fenced off. It is an open border through which the Lebanese pass. Approximately 250,000 Lebanese live in the security zone, and we have decided not to cut them off from Lebanon; therefore, movement there is freer and is mainly supervised by SLA soldiers. This, of course, carries the danger of penetrations into the security zone.

[Grossman] Do you entertain the idea of closing this border between the security zone and...

[Rabin, interrupting] Absolutely not, because then we will have to establish military rule and seemingly to annex the security zone to the State of Israel. We cannot consider such a step, either from the political or the defense point of view.

[Grossman] Minister Rabin, thank you very much.

Jerusalem 'Satisfied' With UN Credentials Vote

TA1910113088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Jerusalem is satisfied with the way many countries changed their usual voting pattern in the General Assembly and opposed a motion to strip Israel of its UN credentials.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that of all the Eastern bloc countries, only the USSR voted to disqualify Israel; it also announced, however, that it would not support an appeal by Arab countries against the vote, as it had in the past. All other East European countries supported Israel or abstained.

African countries which usually voted against Israel this time supported it or abstained. The UN General Assembly last night rejected by a large majority the Arab demand to take away the Israeli delegation's credentials.

PRC Trade Delegation Arrives 19 Oct

TA1910175088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] A seven-member PRC delegation landed at Ben-Gurion Airport a short while ago. Its members will hold meetings with plant owners and importers in Israel in a bid to strengthen trade relations between Israel and the PRC. Our correspondent 'Amos Har'el reports that the delegation is headed by Lo Chi Minh, a Chinese businessman residing in Belgium. The other delegation members apparently arrived from the PRC.

Talks With PRC Postponed Until After Elections

TA2010101788 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Oct 88 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] The Foreign Ministry recently held contacts with elements in the PRC in order to secure an invitation for Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to visit Beijing before the elections.

A senior Foreign Ministry official has said that the contacts were about to be successfully concluded, but after a series of discussions the Ministry decided to postpone the matter until after the elections, basing its decision on the fact that such a dramatic visit could be construed as a blatant election gimmick.

At present, continuous contacts are under way with Amman in an effort to secure a declaration from King Husayn expressing his willingness to discuss a peace settlement with Israel. Labor Party elements hope that such a declaration will reestablish the Jordanian option and harm the Likud's election propaganda, which is based mainly on the fact that the PLO has remained alone in the political arena. [passage omitted]

Poland 'Interested' in Israeli Investments

TA1910163588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] The Polish minister of foreign trade today told Dan Gillerman, president of the Israel Chamber of Commerce and who is currently visiting Poland, that his country is interested in encouraging Israeli investments. The Polish minister noted that his government recently instituted several incentives for investors, mainly in the areas of industry, agriculture, and tourism, and offered these incentives to Israeli investors as well.

Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that Poland is expecting the new incentives to increase tourism ties with Israel significantly.

Leftists Say PLO To Recognize State at PNC

TA1910214688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2130 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Progressive List for Peace Knesset Members [MK's] Muhammad Mi'ari and Mati Peled this evening quoted senior PLO members as saying that at the PNC meeting, the PLO will decide to recognize Israel. Radio Monte Carlo has reported that the two have returned from Yugoslavia where they met with PLO members headed by Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas. Our Arab affairs correspondent Gadi Hitman reports that PLO members have so far not commented on the MK's remarks.

PLP-PLO Communique on 'Principle' of 2 States

TA1910125988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] The Progressive List for Peace [PLP], which the High Court of Justice yesterday ruled can compete in the Knesset elections, claims that the PLO signed an official document in which it recognizes the principle of two states: the State of Israel alongside a Palestinian state.

The PLP claims that the document was signed in a meeting a few days ago in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. The meeting was attended by Knesset Members Mi'ari and Peled and by Mahmud 'Abbas on the PLO side. More details from correspondent Razi Barqay:

The following are the contents of the joint document signed by Muhammad Mi'ari and Matityahu Peled of the PLP and by Mahmud 'Abbas, a PLO Executive Committee member who is called Abu Mazin, for the PLO. According to the document, the two delegations dealt with the effects of the intifada [uprising] on efforts to find a just political solution, based on recognition of the Palestinian people's just national rights, headed by their inviolable right to self-determination and to set up alongside Israel a sovereign state, on territory belonging to the homeland, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The two delegations agreed on the need to convene an international conference with the participation of the PLO and Israel. Such a conference would be based on UN resolutions, including 242 and 338.

This is the wording of the announcement. The PLP spokesmen claim that the PLO is to release an identical version to coincide with the release in Israel. To repeat, the meeting was held face-to-face with PLO members last week in Belgrade.

The PLP has made several gains in its struggle with RAKAH for support among Israeli Arabs, and the question is why it kept quiet about the communique until now. It is not difficult to guess that its leaders waited until the High Court of Justice completed its deliberations on the PLP in order not to have a negative influence on its decision.

Peres, Husayn Considering 'Joint Political Move'

TA1910122088 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 19 Oct 88 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] In recent weeks, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Jordan's King Husayn have resumed their direct contacts and have examined the possibility of a joint political move.

Peres and Husayn have recently exchanged messages relating to the Jordanian king's possible involvement in the Middle East peace process. Peres was hurt by Husayn's shirking of responsibility for the West Bank, despite the agreement reached between the two in London at the beginning of the year [as published].

The renewed contacts between the two are aimed at reviving the "London Agreement," reestablishing Husayn's commitment to the West Bank, and convincing the king to hold an open dialogue with Israel under the aegis of an international conference.

Peres is planning another dramatic political move in which several Middle East capitals, as well as an important East European capital, will take part.

Shamir Urges Egypt To Resume Talks on Autonomy

TA1910191288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has called on Egypt to renew talks on implementation of the autonomy plan in accordance with the spirit of the Camp David accords.

He claimed that these talks were halted 6 years ago with President Mubarak's capitulation to the pressure applied by the Palestinians. Contrary to his predecessor, Anwar al-Sadat, Mubarak preferred unity and understanding with the Arab countries over the autonomy agreement.

The prime minister was speaking this evening in Ganne Tamra at the opening of the Likud's election campaign in the Arab sector. His remarks were reported by our correspondent Yo'el Dar.

Likud Approaches Religious Parties on Coalition

TA1910211788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Today the Likud launched intensive contacts with the religious parties to examine the possibility of their joining a Cabinet headed by the Likud after the elections. Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that this morning Ministers Nisim and Sharon conferred with Knesset Member [MK] Avraham Shapira at the finance minister's office.

Among other things, they discussed the possibility that Agudat Yisra'el will join a Likud-led coalition. Our correspondent points out that MK Shapira is not running for the Knesset on behalf of Agudat Yisra'el, although he is still a leader in that party.

Peres Promises No Coalition With Leftist Parties

TA1910200288 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1940 GMT 19 Oct 8

[Statement by Alignment leader Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, within the Alignment's election propaganda broadcasts on 19 October—video recorded]

[Text] Good evening. Last night, an extremely serious thing happened. In its election propaganda broadcasts, the Likud used a technique forbidden in all democracies, a technique employed in nondemocratic countries, one never before used in Israel. It presented a distorted portrait of myself and attempted to present a false picture of our movement in regard to coalition plans. It attempted a brainwashing through electronic and other means.

Let me clarify: The Labor Party has previously established and will in the future set up a coalition of Jerusalem, a coalition of Zionist parties—not a coalition with PLO-backed or communist parties.

All of us should warn the Likud sternly that the State of Israel is worthy of a different style—a style of truth.

Rabin on State of Unrest, Threat of Arab Armies

TA1910184388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that the security forces' activity in the territories will continue to be firm, but at the same time will also continue to be conducted within the law.

He claimed that the PLO and the leadership of the uprising in the territories are currently confused because of the changes and developments in the territories and are unable to meet the challenge presented to them by King Husayn. They have no practical ways to translate the violence into political gains, he said, and their differences are growing deeper. The defense minister was speaking at a meeting with members of an umbrella organization counseling U.S. Jewry on economic, defense, and policy matters.

Rabin added that the real and most serious threat to Israel comes from the Arab armies, which are on a par with huge European armies from the quantitative point of view. Iraq, he believes, is presently unprepared for another struggle against Israel. Nor does he believe that Syria will launch a war before securing other Arab-world countries as partners for that.

Rabin Discusses Hardship in Territories

TA1910222788 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 2156 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today that 85 percent of the violent incidents in the territories involve stonethrowing, the hurling of Molotov cocktails, assault with knives, and the planting of roadblocks made of tires and rocks.

Speaking in Jerusalem to members of a body that provides counseling to dozens of U.S. Jewish communities and organizations on economic and defense matters, Mr Rabin said that the soldiers in the territories, irrespective or rank, are in an unpleasant predicament in the territories. Some 90 percent of them still prefer to serve in Lebanon, he said.

At the same time, the defense minister noted that the local population in the territories is experiencing a long period of suffering. The PLO and the leadership of the uprising are confused in view of the serious developments in the field.

Drafting of 'Uprising' Pamphlets Detailed

TA1910140388 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 19 Oct 88 p 1

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] A member of a Popular Committee in one of the West Bank villages presented to our correspondent the details outlining how pamphlets of the Unified National Command of the Uprising are being drafted. This man is one of those released in the exchange deal with the Jibril organization, and is a member of the strike forces that enforce the instructions of the intifada [uprising].

According to him, four organizations comprise the intifada leadership. They coordinate the drafting of the pamphlets. The organizations are Fatah, the Palestinian Communist Party, the DFLP, and the PFLP. The Islamic Jihad is also represented through its Fatah-supporting faction. The Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] organization is not represented.

According to this source, beginning with pamphlet No 22 published some 2 months ago, the procedure for writing the pamphlets is as follows: Each organization presents a draft. The leadership drafts a trial pamphlet which is then sent outside the territories for the PLO's approval. The most common method of doing this is with facsimile machines. A different facsimile machine is used each time. In other cases the drafts are sent by couriers to Jordan. The draft approved by the PLO returns to the West Bank, usually by facsimile as well.

During the discussions on the final drafting, the participants listen to commentaries broadcast on the PLO transmissions from Baghdad. Occasionally, the PLO would send a special request because of some development in Palestinian matters, such as 'Arafat's speech in Strasbourg or the situation in Lebanon.

Abie Nathan: Mosad Plot To Assassinate 'Arafat

TA1910123288 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Oct 88 p 12

[Report by Wolf Blitzer]

[Excerpt] Washington—The Soviet Union has warned the PLO of an alleged Mosad plot to assassinate PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat before the November 1 elections in Israel, Abie Nathan said yesterday.

Nathan, who is in Tunis for another round of meetings with PLO officials, told THE JERUSALEM POST in a telephone interview from his room at the Tunis Hilton: "I hope the hell this is not true."

His voice clearly nervous, Nathan said heightened security precautions have been taken in Tunis in recent days as a result of the reported Soviet warning. He arrived in Tunis on Monday.

"There is a military alert here," he said. "The Chairman ('Arafat) is surrounded by a lot of people. There is a lot of tension here. I'm really worried. This is very serious."

He said that he had not met with 'Arafat and declined to say with which PLO officials he had met.

Earlier this year, Israeli agents were reported to have assassinated Khalil al-Wazir, a high-ranking PLO official, in Tunis.

Nathan, who met with 'Arafat in Tunis last month, said he returned this week to get a written commitment from the PLO to work for the release of five Israeli soldiers taken prisoner in Lebanon in recent years. He said he made this trip after getting word that the PLO would issue such a statement. [passage omitted]

2 Lebanese 'Terrorists' Remain in Custody

TA1910203588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] The Lod military court has instructed that two terrorists, one of whom underwent terrorist training in the Soviet Union and subsequently perpetrated some attacks against the South Lebanese Army [SLA], remain in custody until the completion of due process.

The other terrorist, a Fatah member, tried several times to infiltrate into Israeli territory to carry out an attack and capture hostages for bargaining purposes.

The first, Qa'id Muhammad Bandar, aged 21 from Lebanon, is suspected of having been recruited by the Lebanese Communist Party approximately a year ago. He was sent to attend a special terrorist course in the Soviet Union, where he underwent 3 months of training in submachine gun shooting and explosives.

Approximately 8 months ago, he returned to southern Lebanon and carried out several attacks against SLA patrols. He was caught 4 months ago when he and a squad of communist terrorists went out on a mission to attack an SLA position.

The second terrorist, Ahmad Rahman Hitawi, also from Lebanon, was captured approximately 6 months ago near the northern border while attempting to penetrate into Israel at the head of a squad whose mission was to capture hostages and demand the release of terrorists held in Israel.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Casualty Toll Updated

TA1910122788 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 19 Oct 88 p 10

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 17 October, the 314th day of the intifada [uprising], the IDF spokesman did not provide any updated information on the number of Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, 313 Palestinians have been killed. This figure includes those murdered on suspicion of collaborating with the Israeli authorities.

Palestinian sources, on the other hand, report 400 fatalities, according to the following breakdown:

—266 fatalities from IDF and settlers gunfire;

—33 fatalities from beatings and electrocution;

—63 fatalities from asphyxiation;

—38 fatalities from other causes. This figure includes those killed in Jaljuliya.

Plastic Bullet Injures Gaza Man

TA1910172388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] A 19-year-old resident of the Tuffah neighborhood of Gaza sustained slight chest injuries from a plastic bullet fired by the security forces this morning. He was transferred to Al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza. This report was filed by our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv.

'Stray Bullet' Killed Child

TA1910173788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] A preliminary investigation conducted today under the supervision of the commander of the Central Command reveals that the 5-year-old child from Nabulus was killed yesterday by a stray bullet.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that several shots were fired from an IDF post several hundred meters away from the child's home. The child was hit by a bullet while playing in the yard. The IDF is continuing to investigate the incident.

The commander of the IDF units in Judaea and Samaria met the child's father and expressed their deep regret over the child's death.

2 Killed During General Strike

TA1910182688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Excerpt] In Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip today six men were wounded by IDF gunfire during riots, two Hebron residents were killed in a traffic accident, and a general strike was staged today in the territories. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports from Ramallah:

The commercial strike in the territories was staged to protest what the Unified National Command of the Uprising called in its pamphlet the behavior of Jewish settlers toward the Arab population.

The uprising is to blame for the death of two Hebron residents who were killed today in a traffic accident. Arab youths spilled oil on the roads in several places in Judaea and Samaria. The result was a traffic accident that killed the two near the village of Bayt Immar in the Hebron area. A truck slid and hit a private car from Hebron.

One of the passengers died instantly and the two injured were taken by an IDF helicopter to Hadassa Hospital. One died of his injuries. Five traffic accidents were caused today in Judaea by spilled oil and rain. In other places nails were spread on the roads.

Several clashes between youths and IDF troops took place in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip today. There are reports of five residents wounded: three in Janin, one in Nabulus, and another in Tulkarm. [passage omitted]

Girl's Body Found in Jerusalem

TA1910214888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2130 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] The body of a young Jewish girl was discovered a short while ago on the road leading to Mt Scopus near Wadi al-Jawz in East Jerusalem.

Our police affairs correspondent Shlomi Stein reports that the body was naked and that at this stage no further details on the circumstances of the girl's death are known.

A Molotov cocktail was hurled this evening at a No 160 bus in Hebron near the settlers' restaurant. It hit the exterior of the bus but failed to ignite. No one was hurt and no damage was caused.

The IDF has launched searches in the area. This report was filed by our correspondent Alon Diskin.

Curfews Lifted in Gaza Strip

TA2010080388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Text] The curfews imposed yesterday on most of the Gaza Strip refugee camps were lifted this morning, and normal life has been resumed in the area. Most of the local workers left for work in Israel, and commerce is being conducted with almost no hitches. There were minor disturbances in the Gaza Strip this morning, but these were dispersed by the security forces.

Minister Weizman Hospitalized for Chest Pains

TA2010093488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Text] Minister 'Ezer Weizman felt faint on his way to this morning's Cabinet meeting. He was treated by an ambulance near the prime minister's office and was later transferred to Hadassah 'En Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem. Our political correspondent reports that Minister Weizman had felt faint and had felt pressure in his chest.

He is in a good mood at present, but will remain at the hospital several more days for observation. We have learned from the hospital that the minister did not suffer a heart attack.

Israeli Arab Sentenced for Sabotage Acts

TA1910163988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] The Haifa District Court sentenced Samir Da'ud from the village of Jaljuliya to 64 months of jail. He was convicted of stealing cars, setting them on fire, blocking the main road leading to his village, and throwing stones at vehicles passing near Jaljuliya.

Shu'fat Resident Gets Prison Term for Murder

TA1910164488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] The Lod military court handed down a 28-year prison term to a resident of the northern Jerusalem neighborhood of Shu'fat who was a member of the terrorist squad that killed Yig'al Shahaf in the Old City about a year ago. He was tried separately from the other members of the squad because he argued that he did not actively participate in the murder and merely supplied his comrades with the weapon that killed Yig'al Shahaf.

Territories Atlas, Population Estimates Released

TA1910160488 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Oct 88 p 1

[Report by Dan Sagir]

[Text] The "West Bank and Gaza Atlas," published by the West Bank Data Base Project under the management of Dr Meron Benvenisti and presented yesterday to journalists, estimates the number of Arab residents in the territories at approximately 1.73 million in 1987.

This figure is 250,000 higher than the number provided by the Central Bureau of Statistics, which is 1.403 million.

The figures presented by both bodies are mere estimates compiled by statistical methods since no general census has been carried out in the territories since 1967. The number of Jewish settlers in the West Bank in 1987 was 67,000, while in the Gaza Strip it was 2,506.

Preparations for mapping the West Bank and Gaza Strip started before the uprising. The authors of the atlas are Dr Meron Benvenisti and Shlomo Hayat. According to Benvenisti, the atlas could serve as a basis for future geopolitical arrangements. He said that the various data in the atlas, which states in facts and figures the hardships and distress of the Arab residents of the West Bank, could, to a large extent, explain the outbreak of the intifada [uprising].

The statistics outline a total lack of planning and development among the Arabs. The development of various public services and facilities has not caught up with the ever increasing number of inhabitants. Examining the

situation through various parameters, such as the number of beds per thousand people or in terms of education services, explains the high degree of frustration.

The authors noted that they encountered many difficulties obtaining the information on the territories. In many cases the work seemed like the construction of an extremely difficult jigsaw puzzle. Both authors point out that information about the physical situation and the infrastructure is essential to all planning and political decisions.

The 140-page book contains various population figures—Arab and Jewish—and a map of the UK, Jordanian, and Israeli administrations. Other maps in the book show public transportation (Jewish and Arab), infrastructure development, education and health facility distribution, industrial development, olive groves, Arab cities and villages including an alphabetical index, Jewish settlements, and various Jewish cities and settlement ordinance plans.

As a basis for future negotiations, the atlas provides maps of the Allon plan, a map of the settlements set up by the Labor Party, maps of the Dayan-Weizman and the Sharon plans, and others.

Businessman Denies Role in Iranian Arms Deal

TA2010100288 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 20 Oct 88 p 11

[Report by Alex Fishman and Ya'aqov Eylon in New York]

[Excerpts] "My part in the affair was to try to sell Chilean aircraft to Thailand. The deal fell through in the end," businessman Shabtay Duvdevani, whose name cropped up in a new arms to Iran affair, told HADASHOT.

"I do not have a clue about the Iranian angle reported by ABC in connection with the aircraft deal," he said. [passage omitted]

Sources close to Duvdevani flatly denied that he had known Vice President George Bush, who was criticized in the ABC report.

Sources in the United States said the revival of the affair was initiated by Iran in an attempt to discredit Vice President George Bush on the eve of the presidential elections.

Shabtay Duvdevani, an electronics engineer and aviation expert, completed his Air Force service in the mid-1970's with the rank of lieutenant general. His last post in the IDF was Air Force representative in the Defense Ministry Purchasing Mission in New York.

Upon his release from the Army, he, together with two partners and Kibbutz Bahan, set up a company called "Gal Advisers" which provided marketing and brokerage services in various fields, including weapons sales. [passage omitted]

Some 'Prominent' West Bankers To Keep Citizenship
JN1610142088 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 14 Oct 88 p 1

[Text] AL-BAYAN has learned that the Jordanian Government intends to maintain the Jordanian passports granted to some Palestinian figures on the occupied West Bank.

Some of the most prominent figures who will keep their Jordanian citizenship, despite the disengagement between Jordan and the West Bank, are former members of Parliament and the Senate; directors of departments during the Jordanian period; and a number of prominent figures, heads, and members of municipal councils known for their support for Jordanian policy.

The prevalent belief here is that this measure—stipulating the retention of Jordanian citizenship by nearly 2,000 Palestinians on the West Bank—could affect the "balance" along with another decision by the Jordanian Government concerning about 3,000 deported Palestinians and members of the PNC living in Jordan when the Jordanian Government withdrew their Jordanian citizenship and decided to give them temporary passports valid for 2 years instead of 5, like those of regular Jordanian citizens.

Al-Rifa'i Receives Norwegian Defense Minister
JN1810133588 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Oct 88

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received at his office today Norwegian Defense Minister Johan Jorgen Holst and the Norwegian permanent UN representative. They reviewed existing relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and means to bolster them. The meeting was attended by the Norwegian ambassador in Amman.

It is noteworthy that the Norwegian minister is carrying out an inspection tour of the Norwegian forces operating within the UN forces deployed in a number of the area states.

Crown Prince Receives Iraqi Chief of Staff
JN1810202488 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 18 Oct 88

[Text] His royal highness the crown prince today received the Iraqi Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Nizar 'Abd al-Karim Faysal for talks on regional issues. The meeting was attended by the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Minister on New Production Company, Radio
JN1710203988 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 15 Oct 88 p 2

[By Sumayyah Ahmad]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Commenting on his visit to Cairo and meetings with the Egyptian president and officials, [Jordanian Information Minister] Hani al-Khasawinah said that Egyptian-Jordanian relations are warmer now due to the Jordanian people's and King Husayn's love for President Mubarak's honest and decent personality.

He said: I met with Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi and Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif because of this desire to entrench bilateral relations.

Actually, we have many agreements. The first is that we should finish the microwave link between Jordan and Egypt within the next few months. This will be through a ground network for television, where Egyptian and Jordanian viewers will be able to watch each other's programs.

We have also agreed to exchange television programs, especially since Egypt is pioneering in its programs and production. It is the first item on the lists of Arab—specifically Jordanian—viewers.

We have actually started a radio and television production company. We hope that the brothers in Egypt and Iraq will participate so we can cooperate as a nucleus for a greater Arab company to ensure serious, yet entertaining and educational television and radio production for the Arab audience in all parts of the Arab world. We have made great progress in this direction and are continuing to do so.

At the same time, next month we will be opening a radio station directed to all Arab communities in all parts of the world. It may be the first station of its type in the Arab region.

Our Egyptian brothers agreed to supply us with Egyptian expertise in the field of beamed radio. We have also agreed to exchange information expertise, send media men for training to Egypt, and support cooperation between PETRA-JNA and MENA.

Industrialists To Support Economic Measures
JN1910192788 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Amman—Industrialists affirmed their full-confidence that Jordan will be able to overcome recent events and take measures to put issues in the proper perspective.

They also affirmed that Jordanian industry will be able to overcome the present problems in the Jordanian economy through its determination to increase local

production capacities, direction toward constructive use of available resources, and faith in those working in this field in an atmosphere of total security.

This came in a communique issued by the industrialists at the end of an extended meeting held today in the Amman Chamber of Industry. The meeting was held at the invitation of the head and members of the chamber's administrative board to study the results of the economic, monetary, and financial measures taken by the government.

These measures were taken in order to gather available economic potentials and capacities and concentrate them on serving the country based upon economic democracy and honest competition—the foundations of which were laid down by His Majesty King Husayn, leader of the nation and founder of its modern civilization.

The communique clarified that the industrialists and representatives of the industrial production sector are fully ready to cooperate with the specialized official sides. They are ready to discuss the proposals and decisions which could be implemented to enable Jordan to continue its march of development and growth in all sectors.

The industrialists announced the industrial sector's adherence to its constructive role in production, distribution, maintenance of quality, and moderation of prices. They called on all the industrial sectors to continue providing industrial products for the local markets, not raising their prices, and keeping them at their current standards and good quality.

The meeting—comprising industrialists and representatives of 13 industrial sectors—covered economic, monetary, and financial measures recently issued by the government, their results, and their positive effects on the industrial sector.

It covered the cooperation between the industrial sectors to support the national economy, speed up its progress, develop local industry, improve production efficiency, and reduce costs. They affirmed the need to restore confidence in local industry, increase hard currency obtained by an increase in exports, prevent the leakage of capital abroad, strengthen confidence in investment factors in Jordan, and handle companies which are having problems.

The meeting also discussed ways of acclimatizing to the current economic situation, preserving prices, and not raising them since raw materials' stocks were available to the industrialists before the last economic, financial, and monetary measures were issued.

They affirmed the desire of industrialists to serve national economy and turn its wheel faster. They also discussed the effects of the latest measures to support Jordanian industry by limiting imports and increasing exports. They affirmed that these measures were meant to correct the march, adjust criteria, put issues in perspective, and necessitate the support for this line to help the government and cooperate with it endlessly to support national economy.

A detailed discussion took place among the industrialists on the latest government measures to improve the production of the tourism, industry, and agriculture sectors. These sectors represent the productive ones and constitute a basic source of foreign currency.

At the end of the meeting, a drafting committee was formed to prepare proposals and suggestions for the various industrial sectors to submit. They concern the effects of the economic, monetary, and financial measures on the national economy and local industry, and the role of the industrial sector in strengthening the development march.

The drafting committee will meet next Monday to discuss the suggestions and proposals, formulate them into a memorandum, and refer them to the concerned parties.

Khaldun Abu Hassan, head of the Amman Chamber of Commerce Administrative Board, delivered a speech at the beginning of the meeting in which he affirmed the importance of studying the latest decisions and economic, monetary, and financial measures and their effects on the economic functionaries in general and the industrial sector in specific.

He said that these measures were taken because of local and regional economic circumstances and the consequent recession in income—which reflected on Jordan and consequently lead to pressures on the Jordanian Dinar and its exchange rate.

He added that the local and regional economic circumstances have led to a form of instability in the industrialists' commitments of foreign currencies or the rise in price of some goods, whether local or imported. He called on the industrialists to prevent anyone from harming the national economy by exploiting the current circumstances through raising prices and not delivering products.

He affirmed that the industrial sector forms one of the foundations of the Jordanian economy. He called on the economic functionaries to act responsibly and far-sightedly until this transient crisis passes.

Balance Between Resources, Needs Urged

JN2010094588 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Oct 88 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "We Depend on Ourselves and Trust Our Abilities"]

[Text] Because of a number of factors and developments that affected all countries in the region, and as part of a comprehensive reassessment of our country's needs and capabilities, Jordan has recently adopted a number of economic, monetary, and financial measures.

These measures clearly indicate that Jordan has begun a stage of economic adaptation, depending on its own capabilities and the sense of awarness and belonging that characterizes its people.

Undoubtedly, this stage of Jordan's progress and development demands, due to direct objective necessities, a precise balance between our available resources and our basic needs. This should be achieved through public effort—to be laid out and carefully implemented—and in a spirit of responsibility and nationalism.

It should be achieved by the public and private sectors, each according to its position, ability, and duties. Perhaps the experience of the past few days, and the positive initiatives by various economic and social sectors, stress beyond any doubt that the people of this homeland are fully prepared to cooperate with the government and respond to its measures—aimed at mobilizing all capabilities and devoting all available resources to serving Jordan, so that it can continue its good march under the banner of the leader of the homeland, and the architect of its modern renaissance.

The meeting yesterday of representatives of 13 industrial sectors at Amman's Chamber of Industry is a living example of a deep and honest sense of affiliation and loyalty.

The participants' decisions emphasized preparedness for common action and cooperation with the government to achieve all the goals of the recent measures, which require adaptation to the current situation and adjustment to existing economic circumstances, that is, by maintaining prices, refraining from taking advantage, and depriving opportunists of their chances.

Jordan, which decided to overcome the problems of this stage through self-reliance, will continue to look to its sisterly Arab countries that failed to keep their obligations toward the first Arab confrontation state, wagering on their strong desire for Jordan to remain a strong fortress and barrier in the face of the expansionist Zionist enemy, especially since Jordan's foreign debts, accrued over the past years, are not larger than the Arab financial support decided for Jordan.

Anyway, Jordan, which knows its options and capabilities very well, will adhere to its declared policy, and act according to its national will that stems from the conscience of its people.

It is determined to overcome the hardships of this stage, which we are very confident will be only a summer cloud in the sky of the distinguished Jordanian progress and development march.

'Weak' Reaction to Israeli Measures Viewed

JN1510103888 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Oct 88 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "Israel's Arbitrary Measures and the Weak International Reactions"]

[Text] The weak international reactions to the Israeli occupation authorities' grotesque crimes against the town of Nabulus, including the siege and the demolition of a number of houses there, have apparently encouraged these authorities to continue perpetrating these crimes and adopt them as declared Israeli policy.

The occupation authorities yesterday resumed demolishing houses in the West Bank, and they expanded their blockade, their siege and killing operations, and their state terrorism.

This affirms that the Israeli Government is now bent on promoting this barbaric policy and adopting it officially, given the shy international reaction which lacked the intention to increase Israel's isolation and boycott it.

While the chairman of the UN Security Council was expressing to the Israeli charge d'affaires at the United Nations the Security Council's protests against Israel's failure to respect international resolutions and its continuous violations of human rights in the occupied territory, the enemy leaders were adopting measures to blow up more Arab houses and inflict as many casualties as possible among Arab citizens under occupation.

Undoubtedly, such Israeli belittlement of the Security Council and the Israeli leaders' contempt of the highest international body is a direct consequence of the full U.S. cover for Israel's position and for its unceasing violations of the will of the international community as expressed by numerous Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

In view of the situation, we must resort to the UN Security Council once again, not to hold unofficial consultations and issue critical statements and utterances which Israel has been accustomed to ignoring, but to hold an official Security Council session and place all the permanent member-states before their responsibilities with regard to Israel's flagrant violations, arbitrary measures, and savage, serious crimes.

Perhaps this will impose a modicum of Security Council and General Assembly authority over the occupied territory and reduce Israel's escalating Nazi measures against our steadfast people in the occupied areas.

TIMES Decries Labor Party's 'New Tactic'

JN1910111088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Oct 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Weak Ploy"]

[Text] Israeli leaders have offered assorted responses to the Palestinian uprising, ranging from collective punishments and mass detentions to increased use of lethal weapons against rock-throwing Palestinian children.

Now, it seems, the Labour Party is trying a new tactic by promising the Palestinians elections of local representatives for future peace talks. The gesture is not very promising because of its transparent desire to quell the uprising by offering false carrots in place of the ineffective stick which Israel has applied throughout the past eleven months.

The Palestinians living under Israeli occupation are not struggling for local elections. They are struggling for their national rights. They do not need to choose local leaderships. They have a very clear leadership in the combination of indigenous, grass-roots heads of social, political and community organisations, and the PLO itself, which is recognised as the sole legitimate Palestinian leadership by the whole Arab World and by most of the rest of the world.

The fact is, Israel has imprisoned, detained, expelled or killed the majority of the indigenous Palestinian leaders. If the Labour Party is so keen to have Palestinian leaders to negotiate with, all it has to do is allow the 1,500 Palestinians it has deported since 1967 to return to their homes in Palestine, and to free the thousands of Palestinians it has herded into detention camps.

The problem is not one of representation. It is a problem that Israel perpetuates by not recognising the right of the Palestinians to national self-determination. The ploy of holding out the carrot of elections is just that: a ploy, and a pretty weak one at that.

If the Labour offer were coupled with a declaration recognising the Palestinian right to national self-determination, the Palestinian response would probably be quite positive. In its present form, the Labour offer is insignificant, diversionary and irrelevant.

Meeting Discusses Al-Wahdah Dam, Financing

JN1610111288 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Oct 88 p 2

[By Caroline Faraj, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Due to the scarcity of water the Jordanian government has been paying great attention to research concerning water source development, so as to meet the increasing demand on water for drinking and irrigation.

In September last year, Jordan and Syria signed a protocol of understanding which paves the way to the commencement of Al-Wahdah Dam.

The government sent an invitation to various international financing agencies to participate in a technical meeting in Amman to discuss the project. These meetings started last Monday, when six governments and seven financial funds gathered to review the present status of the project, and technical economic and financial feasibility studies.

The presentation at the meeting covered an overview of water resources in the Jordan Valley, the status of project preparation, design and construction, system operation, dam-type selection, project formulation, economics and the likely contract packaging.

The participants agreed that the project held immense importance, and was vital for Jordan's future economic and social development. They expressed readiness to contribute to the project and agreed to hold a second conference in Amman during February 1989 when they will discuss a comprehensive financing plan.

The meeting, organized by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the Ministry of Planning, examined means of providing finance for the project which would make up to 225 million cubic metres of water available for irrigation, and will generate electric power to benefit both Syria and Jordan.

Syria will be using part of the water and 75 per cent of the total hydroelectric power generated by a power station near the dam.

Minister of Water and Irrigation, Mr. Ahmad Dakhqan said: "It is expected that the external financial contributors will provide about 70 per cent of the total cost of the project, (about JD 127 million), while the rest will be covered by the government."

Mr. Dakhqan added that the last agreement with Syria cancels the previous one signed in the nineteen fifties, which allocated the distribution of the Al-Yarmuk River water.

One of the participants told the JORDAN TIMES that it became clear to them at the meeting that the potential donors to the dam project were the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, Kuwait Fund, Saudi Fund for Development, Islamic Development Bank, World Bank, and the United States agency for International Development (USAID).

On the other hand, the meeting was in favour of maintaining a single contract for the civil works for the Al-Wahdah Dam, and a separate package at this stage for

the electric and mechanical equipment supply contracts. Also subject to further detailed breakdown of cost are items related to foreign and local cost components for the project.

Dr. Gupta of the World Bank concurred that proposed Al-Wahdah Dam was technically sound. He was responding as a professional with experience on dams for over 28 years in the various developing countries, to some concerns raised by some participants on the change in the type of dam from Rockfill with Central Core (10 years back) to present proposals for a Concrete Face Rockfill Dam (CFRD) on the same site, and by the same engineering consultants.

He said that the consulatants were right ten years ago and were also right with their present proposals, which were due to the changes and developments in dam engineering during the last 10 years.

Dr. Gupta added: "The present proposal of CFRD was concurred as the best option for the Al-Wahdah dam project by this Independent International Panel of Experts during their first meeting in Chicago.

The participants emphasised also, the necessity of updating the environmental study completed earlier 1979 for the old Al-Maqarin Dam, under USAID financing.

Finally, the participants hoped that during a subsequent meeting of donors, tentatively scheduled for February 1989, further progress in detailed project engineering will be reviewed and more specific steps for implementation agreed upon, including a firm financing plan.

7 Israelis Die in Car Bomb Attack in South

Islamic Resistance Claims Blast

NC1910150388 Paris AFP in English 1457 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, Oct 19 (AFP)—Four Israeli soldiers were killed and six injured in a suicide car-bomb attack Wednesday on a military convoy along Lebanon's border with Israel, security sources in south Lebanon said.

The Islamic Resistance, a military wing of the pro-Iranian Hizballah organisation, said one of its fighters mounted the attack at the south Lebanon border post of Kafr Killa.

The fighter drove his vehicle packed with explosives directly at an Israeli armoured column, the group said in communiques released earlier in Beirut.

Security sources here said three of the wounded were in critical condition. The bombing targeted a convoy of four jeeps and a bus transporting Israeli soldiers home after a tour of duty in Lebanon, they said.

"The attack left a large number of dead and injured among the ranks of the enemy," the Islamic Resistance said. "Ambulances were brought to the scene to evacuate them while Israeli army helicopters hovered over the sector."

The Islamic Resistance claimed responsibility for a suicide mission on August 19 in Israel's "security zone" in southern Lebanon, injuring three people according to the Israeli army.

Israeli troops and Israeli-backed militiamen patrol the zone, a narrow strip along the border in southern Lebanon.

The Israeli army cut off all the roads linking the security zone to the rest of Lebanon after the latest attack, the Islamic Resistance said.

There was no immediate comment from Jerusalem on the car-bomb reports.

Minibus 'Destroyed' in Attack

NC1910171388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Foreign news agencies have filed urgent dispatches this afternoon and evening about the suicide operation launched by a fighter belonging to the Islamic Resistance against an Israeli enemy convoy in Kafr Killa, some 50 meters from the Lebanese-Israeli border.

According to eyewitnesses, many more than five Israeli soldiers were either killed or wounded as a result of the blast which destroyed a minibus filled with soldiers.

REUTER cited an eyewitness as saying it is unlikely any of the minibus passengers escaped. It is certain the number of Israeli dead and wounded exceeds five and the minibus was destroyed. [passage omitted]

A spokesman for the Islamic Resistance said several Israelis were killed in the attack on the convoy of 40 soldiers, 24 of which were onboard the minibus which was destroyed.

A spokesman for the UN forces said Israeli helicopters hovered over the area and ambulances were immediately dispatched to the scene to transport the wounded. [passage omitted]

'New Tactic' Adopted

NC1910192388 Paris AFP in English 1851 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Metulla, Israel, Oct 19 (AFP)—A pro-Iranian suicide bomber rammed his booby-trapped car into an Israeli military convoy Wednesday along the Lebanese border with Israel, killing five soldiers and wounding several others, Israeli military officials said.

The official at this Israeli border post said at least another five soldiers were wounded, two of them seriously, in the attack a few hundred metres (yards) from here, inside Lebanese territory. Two Lebanese women were also injured.

The car packed with explosives crashed into a military convoy of jeeps and a light truck, the sources said.

The Islamic Resistance, a military wing of the pro-Iranian fundamentalist Hizballah organisation, claimed responsibility for the attack at Kafr Killa, inside Israel's "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

Security sources in southern Lebanon said earlier that the car-bombing targeted four jeeps and a bus transporting Israeli troops home after a tour of duty in Lebanon.

The wounded were evacuated by helicopter to a hospital in Haifa, northern Israel.

The security sources said the car was packed with more than 130 kilograms (285 pounds) of explosives. It disintegrated on impact, after crashing into the convoy at full speed.

Israeli troops rushed reinforcements to the area, which was cordoned off and barred to journalists as army helicopters took part in a sweep of nearby areas.

The Islamic Resistance, in communiques released in Beirut, dubbed the car-bombing the "Operation of Islamic Unity," in keeping with calls for unity from Ayatollah Hussein Ali Montazeri, designated successor of Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni.

The radio of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA), which patrols the security zone together with Israeli troops, said a car packed with 100 kilograms (220 pounds) of explosives ripped through an area just metres (yards) from the station.

The Voice of the South interrupted its programmes for three hours before announcing the attack. It said the commander of Israel's northern region, General Yossi Peled, visited the site of the explosion.

Ahead of a possible Israeli reprisal, Hizballah called later Wednesday for a "general mobilization" of its fighters in south Lebanon.

"We expect an Israeli aggression at any time, and we are prepared for all possibilities," a spokesman for the Islamic Resistance told reporters in the southern Al-Biqa' valley.

Pro-Iranian guerrillas and military vehicles were seen taking up positions, alongside field artillery and mortars, on the outskirts of the "security zone," a correspondent at the scene said.

The Islamic Resistance claimed responsibility for a suicide mission on August 19 at Marj 'Uyun, also in the "security zone," injuring three soldiers according to the Israeli army.

With the two suicide attacks, Moslem fundamentalists could have adopted a new tactic, analysts said, moving away from the Iranian-inspired "human wave" attacks in which hundreds of fighters would launch offensives against SLA positions.

On March 10, 1985, the underground Islamic Jihad organisation claimed responsibility for a car-bomb attack at the border village of Khiyam in which 12 Israeli soldiers were killed and 14 wounded.

After a string of suicide car-bombings in south Lebanon between 1985 and 1980, the Israeli Army imposed strict security measures that made it illegal to drive a car alone inside the "security zone."

Israeli Captives Threatened

NC2010142088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Text] REUTER has reported that Ahmad Qamar, spokesman for Hizballah in Al-Biqa', has stated that any Israeli retaliation for the suicide bombing operation will have adverse effect on the Israeli captives held by Hizballah.

Israeli Death Toll Rises to 7

NC1910194188 Paris AFP in English 1919 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Metulla, Israel, Oct 29 (AFP)—Seven Israeli soldiers were killed and eight injured in a suicide car-bomb attack on an Israeli army convoy Wednesday along Lebanon's border with Israel, military officials here said.

The officials, revising an earlier casualty toll, said two of the wounded soldiers were in serious condition. Two Lebanese women, returning from work inside Israel, were also wounded.

It was the highest Israeli death toll in the region since November 26 when a lone Palestinian guerrilla using a hang-glider landed inside northern Israel from across the border and killed six soldiers at a military camp before being shot dead himself.

Israelis Shell Southern Town

NC2010072788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces shelled the town of Kafra, Haris, Haddathah, and Sribbin with 82-mm mortars this morning. Our correspondent in the South says that 25 shells fell on these towns, causing alarm among the people and property damage.

Meanwhile, resistance fighters shelled the position on the occupied Rshaf Hill at 0500 today, scoring direct hits. The results of the shelling could not be determined because of the cordon which the occupation authorities imposed around the operation area.

Crossings to SLA Area Closed

NC2010113988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Text] Our correspondent in the South reports that the Israeli forces have been closing all approaches to the area under the control of the South Lebanese Army [SLA] since the car bomb explosion in Kafr Killa yesterday.

Our correspondent further reports that the Zummurayya crossing will be closed daily at 1600 instead of 1700 hours. She says that the SLA shelled concentrations of extremist gunmen between Rshaf and Sribbin at 0400 today.

Al-Huss Praises 'Heroic' Attack

NC1910210588 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Excerpts] The Islamic Resistance has declared that well over 40 soldiers of the Israeli occupation forces were killed or injured in the booby-trapped car explosion near Kafr Killa this afternoon. The target of the explosion was an Israeli military convoy that was travelling from Metulla to Marj 'Uyun. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has hailed those who carried out the heroic operation against the Israeli occupation forces. He said this evening that the struggle to liberate the land from Israeli occupation is the most honorable form of struggle.

He added: At a time of defeat and deterioration, this operation has come to assert once again that the test of patriotism and loyalty lies in action to liberate the land from its occupiers.

Fadlallah Salutes Attack

NC2010061988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Text] Hizballah spiritual guide Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stated that yesterday's suicide attack against an Israeli convoy has caused three shocks.

The first is a shock to the Lebanese politicians, who deal with trivial matters, disregarding the issue of liberating Lebanon from the occupation.

The second is a shock to the Israeli security policy within the border strip area. Israel, he said, has been unable to protect its soldiers from such operations.

The third is a shock to the Arab political mentality which is trying to speak about the Israeli issue while in fear of Israel.

Fadlallah added that the Muslim struggler who carried out the operation has again proved that the Muslim fundamentalists do not fear death but proceed toward it along the path toward the achievement of their goals.

Fadlallah said: We address a message through this struggler to all those who want to besiege the Muslim fundamentalists, and declare that intelligence and military methods cannot defeat the generation which this youth represents.

Fadlallah emphasized that this operation is a message of greeting to the strugglers in the Palestinian uprising. He said: Let us tell them that we are with you in your struggle against Zionism.

Israeli Aircraft Overfly Ba'labakk, Draw Groundfire

NC1910115388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] An NNA correspondent in the Al-Biqa' has reported that a pair of Israeli warplanes flew over Ba'labakk at low altitude at 1030 today and carried out mock raids. The two enemy aircraft drew antiaircraft fire.

Syrian Soldier Killed in Tripoli

NC2010152488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Text] A Syrian soldier was killed this afternoon in Al-Jummayzat quarter, Tripoli, North Lebanon. Security sources said that the soldier, 'Amir Hamadah Shahin, was inside a shop when a number of masked gunmen opened fire, killing him on the spot.

'Unified Joint Command' Announced in Damascus

NC2010072588 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Text] The first step toward confronting the separatist scheme has been announced in Damascus. The Lebanese nationalist forces and the Palestinian National Salvation Front have decided to form a unified command to undertake measures to confront the Israeli scheme in Lebanon and to thwart the conspiracy against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

The proclamation was preceded by a series of exchanges among the nationalist leaders in Damascus. The most salient of these was between PSP leader Walid Junblatt and Patriarch Ignatius IV Hazim. The two men reviewed the latest developments on the Lebanese scene as well as the existing threats to the country's unity.

Following the nationalist meeting [not further specified], Junblatt said that there is no point in wagering on any political settlement with the other party [Michel 'Awn and the Lebanese Forces], pointing out that the separatist entity must be actively resisted.

Junblatt said: Saddam Husayn will meet the same end as [former Iraqi Prime Minister] Nuri al-Sa'id. We should close our ranks and get rid of all hesitation. Junblatt added that the nationalist forces do not want to be the side that starts the fighting. However, he added, these forces have an obligation to defend themselves.

For his part, Amal Movement's leader Nabih Birri said that agreement has been reached to form committees in the political, media-related, security-related, and military areas. Birri added that this is being done on the assumption that what is happening in Lebanon is not only harmful for that country but for the rest of the Arab world. Birri said that the Arabs should understand this situation.

He noted that the partition looming over Lebanon is casting ominous shadows over the entire Arab world. Birri said that the current scheme will be resisted, adding that the Lebanese have survived the Israeli invasion and the threat posed by the Multinational Forces in the past.

The leader of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party Higher Council, Dawud Baz, said: We have formed a combined force called the Unified Joint Command [Al-Qiyadah

al-Wahidah al-Mushtarakah] of Lebanese and Palestinian nationalists to confront the conspiracy against the unity of our country, the scheme which plays so well into the hands of Israel.

The leader of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party Emergency Command, 'Isam al-Mahayiri, said that the Zionist entity which has cropped up on the Lebanese soil will not be able to strike roots, regardless of any support by external forces, be these Arab, Israeli, or international.

Army Denies Presence of Foreign Personnel
NC2010132988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Statement issued by the Army Command Directorate General on 20 October]

[Text] Certain media this morning carried fabricated news to the effect that hundreds of non-Lebanese military personnel have been deployed on the Suq al-Gharb and Upper Al-Matn fronts as well as in other areas. According to these news reports, non-Lebanese military experts are training the Lebanese Army to use some modern weapons.

The Army Command denies these claims in part and parcel and calls on the news media to verify the reports attributed to military sources.

The Army Command invites interested journalists to visit the Army positions on the said fronts to ascertain the falsehood of the claims that non-Lebanese personnel are present there.

The Army Command warns those who spread such news of the dangers underlying their acting as tools for those who conspire against the unity of the homeland and the nation and for those who try to deepen the schism to further the schemes to partition the country.

'Awn Discusses Relations With Syria, Elections
NC1910124988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has stressed that his government is exerting efforts to ensure a suitable atmosphere so that a new president can be elected, not appointed. He added: We refuse to turn the president into a governor, and we cannot accept the attempts to obliterate the Lebanese independent national character.

Gen 'Awn said the Chamber of Deputies lost its sovereignty, and this is not the government's responsibility. He pointed out that external, not internal factors are preventing the government from assuming its duty, stressing that the tasks of the legitimate government are to preserve unity, liberate the southern territories from Israeli occupation, regain sovereignty from the Syrian brothers, and safeguard independence.

In an interview with the ASSOCIATED PRESS, Prime Minister 'Awn said he favors the establishment of fraternal and balanced ties with Syria as well as with others, and this should not mean animosity toward Syria. He added: I am not calling for an immediate withdrawal of Syrian troops tomorrow, but we must reach specific agreements that would, sooner or later, lead to the withdrawal of Syrian troops.

He emphasized that the kidnappers of foreign hostages in Lebanon do not reflect Lebanese wishes, because the Lebanese themselves are victims of terrorism and of the countries that practice terrorism.

Prime Minister 'Awn welcomed the indirect dialogue between Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri and Lebanese Forces commander Dr Samir Ja'ja', wishing that the Lebanese factions could talk to each other, without violence and from mutual conviction.

Gen 'Awn added: Those who claim hegemony over us in an international conference are disrupting the establishment of a centralized authority, so that we can not reach that conference. However, he added, the present government will safeguard Lebanon's role and preserve the rights of all Lebanese. He went on to say that bilateral deals which do not include Lebanon are unacceptable, noting that no one can hold an international conference in the absence of Lebanon.

He added that the Lebanese Army is ready for deployment throughout the Lebanese territories and that the unity of the Army is maintained by the common concepts defining its tasks.

Gen 'Awn said the Lebanese militias are not self-sustaining forces, but they represent an extension of regional powers. He pointed out that the military government will remain in power until an alternative is ensured, and this alternative is a president of the Republic.

He said that talk about federation, decentralization, and so on lacks seriousness, emphasizing that single-handed solutions for Lebanon are prohibited, and that solutions must be based on consensus.

Ja'ja' Supports Call for Arab Summit
NC1910104088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' has voiced the Lebanese Forces' complete support for the initiative of UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. Shaykh Zayid has called on the Arab League to take steps to help Lebanon.

Ja'ja' said: We in the Lebanese Forces call for an Arab summit, or at least a meeting of Arab foreign ministers, to discuss the Lebanese problem and make appropriate decisions to help the Lebanese confront the regional schemes being hatched against them.

Ja'ja' said: Syria has wheeled and dealed in Lebanon for years, always rejecting all Arab help for Lebanon. The result of Syrian intervention can hardly be mistaken today, as the country splits into regional spheres of influence. Syria is using all its regional and international weight to strike deals, at the expense of Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, and unity.

The Lebanese Forces commander said he is ready to meet any Lebanese party under the auspices of the Arab League or any neutral Arab body seeking to help Lebanon, not occupy it.

Ja'ja' reiterated the view that the solution of the Lebanese problem will begin when all foreign armies pull out of the country. Ja'ja' pointed out that the Arab League could play a major role in accomplishing such a task.

Junblatt Meets Iraqi Opposition Leader

NC2010131588 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Text] PSP leader Walid Junblatt met in Damascus this morning with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Discussions dealt with local developments.

Junblatt also met in the Syrian capital with Shaykh Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, leader of the Islamic Revolution Command Council in Iraq. They discussed developments in the Arab region and in Lebanon and the Iraqi regime's hostile stand toward Lebanon through its support for the isolationist forces and their partitionist plan.

Al-Huss, Al-Husayni Leave for Damascus

NC2010093588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Text] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss left for Damascus this morning to meet with senior Syrian officials and discuss with them the developments on the Lebanese scene. Chambers of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni left for Damascus later for the same purpose.

Al-Husayni Warns of Partition, 'False Promises'

NC1410152188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, urged today that caution be exercised against false promises. He also called for adherence to hope and to Lebanon. He referred to the bitter experience with the militias and the attempt to drag the Army into it.

Al-Husayni pointed out that the proper choice of a new president of the country depends on a unitary, not a partitionist, stance and a position supporting reform rather than privileges. He said he believes that his national and constitutional duty gives him the right to ask the Lebanese people to commit themselves to defend the country's unity and democratic system, and to reject partition and military rule and their advocates.

Al-Rasi Views Planned Chamber Session

NC1410150888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni received Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi this afternoon. After the meeting Minister al-Rasi said that the discussions dealt with all current Lebanese issues.

Responding to a question, Minister al-Rasi noted that security measures will be taken with regard to the Tuesday Chamber session. He added: There is no problem if deputies from the eastern area wish to attend the session, no problem at all. In any case, our stand and the explicit and obvious legal position is that, whether the elections take palce or not, the Chamber speaker, deputy speaker, and bureau will remain in office, as this has already been determined.

Minister al-Rasi expressed his belief that the session will not be held and quorum not achieved because of pressures exerted on the deputies in the eastern area.

'Parliamentary Sources' on Speaker Election

JN1410162088 Baghdad INA in English 1550 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Beirut, Oct. 14, INA—Parliamentary sources criticized the call made by Speaker of the Lebanese Council of Deputies Husayn al-Husayni to members of the parliament to elect a new speaker for the parliament next Tuesday at the old building of the parliament at Al-Najmah Square in West Beirut.

The sources said they would boycott the session because of Syria's insistence on holding it in an area in West Beirut under its regime's troops control, whereas the deputies demand for holding it in the parliament headquarters building in Qasr Mansur which lies between the two districts of the capital where the deputies could vote freely and without a Syrian dominance.

In a statement to IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, the Lebanese parliamentary source held the Syrian regime responsible for possibility of nonelection of speaker for the parliament after it had hindered the Presidency elections in an attempt to impose a president on Lebanon in return for the Syrian regime deal with Washington and the Zionist entity at the expense of Lebanon and its unity.

Palestine Broadcast Calls for 'Armed Resistance'
JN1910202088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Palestine broadcast: "Spotlight" feature]

[Text] Brothers on the path of revolution and liberation: As our people's uprising continues, forcing the enemy to deploy thousands of its soldiers to carry out repressive measures against the uprising, and even to launch arrest campaigns against every Arab community in the homeland; and while the enemy is facing the complicated economic, morale, and military problems resulting from this situation—such as exacerbating repression costs, losses resulting from low production, reductions in exports, and paralysis in tourism—the enemy fears that the Palestinian resistance will deploy fighting groups in various parts of occupied Palestine.

The enemy will then be forced to deploy more soldiers to search for and pursue the resistance men, thereby turning its army into a major police force. This would affect its military ability to face any future war.

Moreover, the guerilla warfare should be able to deal effective blows to some enemy utilities and its major sources affecting its military capability such as the sources of fuel and energy, industries, ammunition depots, and so forth.

We have seen how terrified the enemy was when a group of resistance men carried out the Dimona operation in the Negev, using Sinai as their base and overcoming Camp David barriers.

We have also seen how the enemy retaliated by assassinating struggler Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad. The ruling regime in Egypt also arrested many Palestinian youths charged with having connections with the group that carried out the operation.

The fact is, there is a need for escalated Palestinian armed resistance to support the popular uprising and expand the battlefield with the enemy, thereby constituting a continuous threat to take revenge on their settlers in retaliation for its crimes against the uprising masses. This is the main task of the Palestinian resistance movement and all its factions. All efforts must be made to accomplish this mission.

Lebanese, Palestinian Front Officials Meet
JN2010084888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Text] Damascus—A meeting comprising the Lebanese national forces and the PNSF [Palestinian National Salvation Front] was held at the political department of the Fatah uprising [dissident] movement in Damascus yesterday evening.

Attending the meeting on the Lebanese national forces' side were Nabih Birri, Amal Movement leader; Walid Junblatt, PSP leader; Comrade 'Asim Qansuh, regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP] Organization in Lebanon; Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization; 'Isam al-Mahayiri, leader of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP]-emergency command [Qiyadat al-Tawari']; Dawud Baz, leader of the SSNP-higher council [al-Majlis al-A'la]; and Sa'dallah al-Mazra'ani, member of the Lebanese Communist Party Central Committee.

Attending the meeting on the Palestinian side were Comrade 'Isam al-Qadi, member of the ASBP National Command and secretary of the Popular Liberation War Vanguards—Al-Sa'iqah Forces; Sa'id Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], secretary of the Fatah Provisional Command; Abu Khalid al-'Amlah, Fatah Movement assistant secretary; Dr Talal Naji, PFLP-GC assistant secretary general; 'Umar al-Shihabi, member of the committee's [not further identified] Political Bureau; and Abu 'Isa and Abu 'Ali Mahdi [not further identified], members of the Fatah Uprising Movement Provisional Command.

'Abd al-Hadi al-Nashshash, official in charge of information in the Fatah Uprising Movement, said that during the meeting they discussed the serious developments and suspect moves in the Palestinian and Lebanese arenas. These moves aim to Zionize Lebanon by supporting the isolationist 'Awn Government.

The conferees also discussed current attempts by the 'Arafatist clique to join a capitulationist settlement in order to undermine both the Palestinian national struggle and its pan-Arab dimension.

The conferees stressed the importance of enhancing the militant alliance with Al-Asad's Syria in its capacity as the pan-Arab center that confronts conspiracies against the entire Arab nation. It was agreed to mobilize pan-Arab, nationalist, and progressive stands in the Lebanese arena to confront all possibilities.

Jordanian National Movement Condemns Iraq
JN1910144288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Amman—A responsible source of the Jordanian National Movement parties and forces has made the following statement:

The Zionist partitionist forces prevented the holding of Lebanese presidential elections, carried out practices against legitimate frameworks and institutions to achieve their objectives to divide Lebanon, and announced the formation of a military government in Lebanon.

After this, the government of killers and fascism in Iraq hastened and recognized this government, supplied it with all forms of weapons and ammunitions, and poured on it the money of our Arab people in Iraq who have been exposed to the most brutal massacres and annihilation at the hands of the criminal tyrant Saddam Husayn.

The responsible source noted that the criminal Saddam-Ja'ja'-'Awn alliance, which is preparing to establish a hostile entity similar to that of the Zionist entity, aims at dividing Lebanon and sinking it in a new bloodbath. This alliance is preparing for a large-scale confrontation with all the forces of the national and pan-Arab liberation movements, particularly sisterly Syria that stands firmly in support of Lebanon's Arabism and unity to help it liberate its national soil and achieve democratic development through great sacrifices.

The source added that the movements of this hostile alliance call on all of us to shoulder large responsibilities to support the Lebanese nationalist forces with all potentials to abort this new criminal plot in one of its most serious stages and to foil the plot of partition and hegemony in Lebanon so that our Lebanese Arab people will achieve all their objectives, safeguard their unity, and liberate their occupied territory.

Concluding, the source affirmed that the plot is serious, and in order to confront it and foil it we should deal with it accordingly. As we strongly condemn this criminal trend supported by Zionists, imperialists, and all the enemies of our Arab people, we affirm our firm support for our brothers in Lebanon to liberate the plot and abort its objectives.

We appeal to all forces of liberation, progress, peace, and socialism in the world to expose the parties of this alliance, confront it, expose its objectives, isolate it, and support the struggle of the militant nationalist Lebanese forces.

We are confident in our people's ability to abort this treasonous alliance as they defeated the treasonous 17 May agreement through the Arab Syrian-national Palestinian-Lebanese alliance and the support of all Arab and international liberation and progressive movements.

Iraqi Opposition Leader Holds Press Conference

JN1910211988 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Damascus—His Eminence Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, held a press conference this evening. It was attended by numerous correspondents from Arab and foreign news agencies, newspapers, and radio and TV networks in Damascus.

At the beginning of the press conference, Al-Hakim announced that the Iraqi opposition, the existence of which is justified by realistic circumstances, has decided to continue the struggle and the jihad until the Baghdad regime of agentry is toppled.

He expressed belief that this is justified by the real problem being faced by all factions and strata of the people—the problem caused by the Iraqi regime of Baghdad which cannot be resolved by anything other than the toppling of this regime.

Al-Hakim affirmed that the Iraqi regime constitutes a serious threat to peace and security in the region. He referred to the historical precedents of this regime which substantiate this fact; namely, the fabrication of the war declared against the Islamic revolution of Iran and this regime's military intervention on the side of the Michel 'Awn government which is rejected by the majority of the Lebanese people.

Al-Hakim added: Besides, the Iraqi regime is perpetrating the cruelest and severest forms of oppression against the sons of the Iraqi people—forms of oppression which contravene international laws and ethical values, especially through its use of the internationally-banned chemical weapons in northern and southern Iraq.

The chairman of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq pointed out that these practices of the Iraqi regime prompted the Iraqi opposition to continue the struggle and the jihad until the fascist regime is toppled.

He added that the Iraqi opposition seeks to form a common framework for the political and informational action for the sake of attaining that objective. He said: My visit to the Syrian Arab Republic was a response to an invitation extended to me by its leadership. It also came within the framework of the general policy being pursued by the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, especially if we consider the fact that fraternal Syria is characterized by certain particular traits, foremost among which is its firm and principled support for the sons of the Iraqi people.

Al-Hakim voiced thanks and appreciation to the Syrian leadership represented by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and also to the Syrian people for this firm stand.

On his impression of the meeting that he held with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and the talks that he held with the president, His Eminence Al-Hakim said: My impressions are good, especially if we consider the fact that the meeting lasted a long time. The talks addressed all regional issues in general. However, special emphasis was laid on the Iraqi issue.

Arab League Secretary General Visits Al-Asad

JN1910131588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 oct 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi at 0915 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended. The meeting covered developments in the region and the situation in the Arab arena.

Klibi Departs

JN1910161288 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1550 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Damascus, 19 Oct (SANA)—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi today left Damascus after concluding a visit of many days to Syria. Klibi was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and ranking officials of the Foreign Ministry.

Afghanistan

Razmju, Ziray Removed From Politburo, Secretariat

LD1910165888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] A plenum of the PDPA Central Committee was held today. Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the Republic of Afghanistan, presented a detailed report on the political-military situation in the country and on the urgent tasks of the PDPA to implement the policy of national reconciliation.

The report by Comrade Najibullah was heard by the plenum participants with profound interest and attention and was seriously welcomed. A summary of the report will be published in the mass media.

In the plenum, Comrade Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, PDPA Central Committee Politburo member and Afghan minister of communications, presented a report on the results of the exchange of views with PDPA members.

Similarly, Comrade Mir Saheb Karwal, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, presented a report on the fulfillment of the decisions of the PDPA Central Committee's June 1988 plenum.

Muhammad Daud Razmyar, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and of the Kabul City Party Committee, presented a report on enhancing the activities of party and state organs to ensure the security of Kabul city.

The Central Committee plenum adopted a resolution on the report by Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the Republic of Afghanistan, inviting party members to unswervingly fulfill the tasks assigned to them in the report.

The plenum also adopted resolutions on the reports by Comrades Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, Mir Saheb Karwal, and Muhammad Daud Razmyar.

The plenum adopted a resolution on the role and position of the DYOA in the realization of the national reconciliation policy.

The plenum discussed organisational issues. Comrades Saleh Muhammad Ziray and 'Abdul Zohur Razmju were removed from the membership of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and Secretariat.

The work of the plenum ended in party comradeship and unity and with revolutionary fervor.

Diplomats Working for Political Solution

BK1910113988 Hong Kong AFP in English 1114 GMT 19 Oct 88

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 19 (AFP)—Pakistan, the United Nations and the Soviet Union have stepped up efforts to find a political solution for Afghanistan that would include the nation's former king, diplomats said here Wednesday.

Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan is currently studying a political solution that would include former Afghan monarch Zahir Shah, in a reversal of late Pakistan President Mohammad Ziaul Haq's policy of excluding him from the peace process, the diplomats said.

Mr. Khan's plan envisages a shura (assembly) comprising some 400 people including Afghan politicians, mujahidin guerrilla commanders and about 40 non-communist Moslems representing the Soviet-backed Kabul government, said one diplomat, citing an Afghan expert at the Pakistani Foreign Ministry.

The shura would also include tribal and religious leaders and could be held in Afghanistan or Pakistan's border city of Peshawar in a month or two, the diplomat said.

It was not clear if the king—overthrown in a July 1973 coup—would attend, but according to the high-ranking ministry official Zahir Shah was ready to visit Kabul or Peshawar in the next two or three months.

Mr. Khan's plan would serve as a starting point for peace talks, diplomats here say.

His new approach at settling the Afghan conflict coincides with the posting Saturday of one of Moscow's most experienced diplomats, First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov, to Kabul as the new Soviet ambassador there.

It also comes as the United Nations General Assembly prepares to discuss the Afghanistan question on November 3.

In addition, representatives of the United Nations' special envoy on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, who has suggested including the former king in a political solution, have been busy in Kabul and Islamabad.

They have met Soviet officials in both cities to discuss a political solution involving Zahir Shah, who is acceptable to Moscow and Kabul, sources said.

But the king has indicated that he is not willing to play a role while the Afghan Government and mujahidin are at loggerheads.

The diplomats have only a few months to find an acceptable political solution. Moscow has pledged under the Geneva peace accords to withdraw all its troops from Afghanistan by mid-February, while Kabul has suffered a series of military setbacks since the accords were signed April 14.

Afghan President Najibullah and Premier Mohammed Hasan Sharq would be ready to resign if an acceptable agreement was reached, reliable sources here said.

Mr. Khan's plan implies a falling off in Pakistan's support for the most radical fundamentalist resistance leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, who wants to set up a fundamentalist-dominated Islamic regime in Kabul.

Moderate mujahidin parties seek a compromise solution which would include the former king, whom the fundamentalists want nothing to do with.

Observers said Mr. Khan was distancing himself from the late General Ziaul Haq's Afghan policy by courting the moderate rebel groups.

Gen. Ziaul Haq opposed the king's return and openly supported the most radical mujahidin groups, while the Pakistan Army and secret services have always supported the rebels and still favoured a military solution.

Pakistan has been led by a caretaker government since Gen. Ziaul Haq's death in a plane crash on August 17. General elections are set for November 16.

Burhanuddin Rabbani, current head of the Peshawar-based seven-party resistance alliance, on Monday ruled out any future role for Zahir Shah.

"Zahir Shah is now part of history and the Afghan nation is not ready to accept him again," he told a press conference.

But Mr. Rabbani said the mujahidin was ready to discuss the return of Soviet prisoners of war with Moscow, and diplomats said these talks could signal a starting point for peace negotiations.

Pakistani Charge Summoned To Receive Protest

LD1910175488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] A Foreign Ministry source has said that the Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 1630 today and the following matters were conveyed to him by the deputy director of the First Political Department:

Despite repeated protests concerning the violation of Afghan airspace by the Pakistani Air Force, the country's security forces report that at 0945 on 22 Mizan 1367, corresponding to 13 October 1988, a Pakistani aircraft entered Afghan territory from the Laka Tiga region at a speed of 720 km an hour.

After a 1-minute reconniaissance flight over Zazimaydan District, Paktia Province, the aircraft returned to Pakistan by way of [name indistict] Torkmanzai.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan protests this airspace violation to the Government of Pakistan and demands that Pakistan refrain from such violations, which are contrary to the principles of neighborliness and accepted international norms. These violations result in nothing but aggravation of the situation.

103d Note on Violations

LD1910200588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] The Foreign Affairs Ministry's department for liaison with the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] reported that this afternoon Afghanistan's 103d note concerning Pakistan's open violations was handed to the UNGOMAP office in Kabul.

Five open violations by Pakistan of Paragraph 2, Document No 1 and Article 3 of the Geneva Accords second document were comprehensively reported and UNGOMAP was asked to assess Pakistan's violations and report the results to the Republic of Afghanistan and the UN secretary general as soon as possible.

Reportage on Combat Between Armed Forces, Rebels

50 Rebels Killed

LD1810175688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 18 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Last night 50 extremist elements belonging to the Harakat extremist group, including two of their leaders named Mullah Malham and Mirbaz, were killed as a result of crushing blows by the units and companies of the Armed Forces in Konduz Province.

BAKHTAR's military section reports that as result of these mopping-up operations carried out along Sherkhan Bandar road in Archi District, eight criminals were seriously wounded and then captured.

Similarly, as a result of these operations, carried out with the cooperation of the peaceloving people of Konduz Province, 2 rocket launchers with 16 missiles, 3 heavy machineguns, 30 light weapons and a large quantity of arms and ammunition were seized by the country's Armed Forces.

'Extremists' Crushed

LD1810184088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Oct 88

[Text] BAKHTAR's military section reports that 40 extremists were crushed yesterday as a result of action by the Armed Forces. These extremists had gathered in (Takhta Pol) region of Qandahar Province. The report adds that as a result of this operation an enemy rocket launcher and dozens of different types of weapons were seized.

As a result of another operation by the Armed Forces, a group of warmongering elements who were disrupting peace in the surroundings of Qandahar city by firing heavy weapons, was crushed yesterday. As a result, 19 extremists were crushed and 17 were seriously wounded. During this operation a rocket launcher, 2 mortars, and a DShK were destroyed and (?11) of their hideouts were eliminated.

'Extremists' Fire Missiles

LD1810184488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 18 Oct 88

[Text] Extremist elements fired surface-to-surface missiles yesterday at residential areas of Batsawul District, Nangarhar Province, martyring one of our compatriots.

The BIA military section reports that the Afghan Armed Forces took retaliatory action, killing two of the criminal extremists and injuring a number of them.

According to another report, yesterday afternoon the criminal extremists launched 85 surface-to-surface missiles at residential areas of Gardeyz city. As a result of this antihuman and anti-Islamic act, two compatriots were injured and the shrine of Shah Keshwar-e Gardeyzi and the Shaykha Grand Mosque were damaged.

Seventeen homes in the (Etefaq Maina) and (Maqsud Maina) regions of Gardeyz city were either partially damaged or demolished.

'Extremist Groups' Clash

LD1810213088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 18 Oct 88

[Text] Eighteen men were killed and 13 injured in armed clashes between extremist groups in the areas around Faryab, Samangan, and Badakhshan Provinces.

According to a report by the BIA military section, as a result of infighting between the extremists of the Rabbani group concerning the distribution of property plundered from the people, 11 extremists were killed in the environs of Pashtun Kowt District, Faryab Province, and 9 were injured. These clashes are continuing.

As a result of armed clashes between the Rabbani and Gulbuddin extremist groups in Badakhshan Province, five belligerents were killed.

10 Killed in Qandahar

LD1910090088 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Kabul, Oct 18, BAKHTAR—"We ask Pakistan and other Western countries to stop their interventions into the internal affairs of Afghanistan letting us to heal the wounds emanating from the war" says Sultan, an elderly in Qandahar city to a BAKHTAR reporter who has prepared a report from Qandahar.

He said that the inhabitants of Qandahar Province are earnestly calling for peace and order in the suburbs of the province.

Quoting a representative of the military and government authorities of Qandahar Province, a BAKHTAR correspondent reports that the province has been subject to severe attacks by extremists and their advocates after the conclusion of Geneva accords.

After the return of the Soviet military contingents from Qandahar Province on August 5, three attacks were carried out by extremists on August 15 and 31 and October 14 for the so-called control of Qandahar city but faced with shattering blows by the Armed Forces, which left behind hundreds of deaths on the side of extremists. In October alone, over 310 extremists were killed and 330 wounded.

The correspondent quoting a military source in Qandahar city said that ten extremists namely Akhtar Muhammad, Habibullah, Niaz Muhammad, 'Abdul Khaliq, 'Abdul Halim, Haji Muhammad, 'Abdullah Jan, Mullah Fateh, Zaher and Fazel Muhammad were crushed and large quantities of their arms were destroyed by the Armed Forces.

Pakistan and the Western advocates of extremists are striving to keep the flame of war alighted in that province. In order to instigate the armed group members for fighting, they are promised that if an extremist is killed in the war 100 thousand rupees will be given and if wounded 20 thousand rupees to their families.

An average of twenty vehicles of arms arrives weekly in Qandahar Province. A number of 500 Pakistani militias have taken part in the suburbs of Spin Buldak in the subversive activities.

Presently, 24 Pakistani military advisers are functioning in different districts of Qandahar Province among whom Jawad and Sulayman [placenames as received] are included, the correspondent reports.

15 Killed in Airport Attack

BK1910124988 Hong Kong AFP in English 1246 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 19 (AFP)—Kabul airport was shut down Wednesday amidst a rocket attack by rebels that left 15 people dead and the terminal building damaged, diplomatic sources here said.

No civilian aircraft were hit as 15 to 25 rockets fell on the airport at a rate of one every five to 10 minutes, the sources said.

The victims were inside the terminal building when one of the rockets hit, as several Soviet-made warplanes including two SU-25 Frogfoot attack jets and four MI-24 Hind-D helicopter gunships were scrambled, the sources said.

One diplomat in Kabul, who the sources did not identify, was told upon reaching the entrance to Kabul airport that he could not proceed further as the terminal building had been hit.

He was also told that the "entire civilian airport area, including the control tower" had been evacuated, the sources said.

Missiles Hit Kabul, Gardeyz

LD1910171388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Extremist groups this afternoon launched 38 surface-to-surface missiles, striking residential areas in Wards 6, 9, 10 of Kabul city. The BIA military section reports that 9 of our compatriots, including children and women, were martyred and 18 were injured when a missile landed in front of the civilian terminal at Kabul airport.

According to reports by responsible security authorities, no one was killed in either Ward 6 or 9 as a result of the attack, but a number of homes were partially damaged.

According to another report, extremist groups today launched 41 missiles at the residential areas of (Dehbashi), Sadat, (Barakkhel), and (Dawlatzai) of Gardeyz city, injuring five of our compatriots. A number of houses were destroyed or partially damaged.

Rebel Weapons Seized

LD1910224588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] In continuation of the Armed Forces' mopping-up operations this week, a quantity of weapons and ammunition belonging to extremists was discovered and seized in Sarowbi District.

The BAKHTAR military section reports that during this operation, which took place in the Chenari valley of Sorowbi District, 1 surface-to-surface rocket launcher with 30 missiles, 2 rocket launchers with 100 rockets, 19 recoilless shells, 6 different guns, and 25 antipersonnel mines were seized.

In accordance with another report from Qandahar Province, 16 extremists were crushed as a result of blows by the Armed Forces in the area around Daman District, Qandahar Province. During this operation, one rocket, one mortar, one rocket launcher, and one enemy hideout were destroyed.

Mujahidin Cause 'Heavy Damage'

BK2010045088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have caused heavy damage to Kabul administration's military installations during their operations in the Gardeyz and Jalalabad areas.

In a recent operation in the eastern province of Paktia, the mujahidin have liberated (Oruguwan) garrison. According to Radio Tehran, scores of Kabul administration soldiers laid down their arms and many were killed.

In their operations in (Hatisafed) area in the north of Farah and Baghlan, the mujahidin inflicted heavy damage to the Kabul administration forces.

'Extremists' Fire Rockets

LD2010055088 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Text] Kabul, Oct 19, BAKHTAR—The extremists fired rockets on some residential villages at Mohamand Darah District, Nangarhar Province. As a result of which a resident was killed.

Our correspondent reports that the rocketing was encountered by the Armed Forces which gave shattering blows killing two and wounding a number of extremists.

According to another report the extremists have also fired 85 surface-to-surface rockets on residential areas in Gardeyz City on Thursday. Two persons have been wounded and Shah Qusoor Gardezi Temple, Sheikhs congregational mosque, and seventeen houses in Gardeyz City were damaged.

India

Reportage on 19 Oct Plane Crashes

165 People Killed

BK1910161788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Excerpts] One hundred and sixty-five people died today in two plane crashes, one near Ahmadabad and the other near Guwahati.

The first crash involved an Indian Airlines Flight IC-113 from Bombay to Ahmadabad. The plane, a Boeing 737, was carrying 129 passengers and 6 members of the crew.

The other crash involved a Vayudoot Fokker Friendship plane which was on its way from Silchar to Guwahati. There were 31 passengers and 4 crew members. [passage omitted]

The prime minister asked the union minister for civil aviation to rush to Ahmadabad from Delhi. After visiting the site, Mr Patil said that 200,000 rupees will be paid as compensation to the next of kin of each of those killed. He told our Ahmadabad correspondent that the amount of compensation will be paid in a week's time. The dead include six foreign nationals.

Mr Patil announced that a court of inquiry will immediately start investigation into the cause of the accident. The minister said the flight data recorder and the cockpit recorder have been recovered from the wreckage of the plane. However, the cockpit recorder has been badly damaged.

Mr Patil said it is wrong to say that the ill-fated plane had outlived its utility. He said the plane was maintained properly. The Gujarat governor, Mr R.K. Trivedi, and the chief minister, Mr Amarsin Chaudhury, also visited the accident site and the civil hospital where the injured have been admitted.

Mr Shivraj Patil flew to Guwahati from Ahmadabad by a special aircraft in the evening. He was accompanied among others by the chairman of the Vayudoot and the chairman of the National Airports Authority of India.

The wreckage of the Vayudoot has been found near Sakabari village in Jayram District of Meghalaya. The helicopter which located the wreckage could not land at the spot due to bad weather. [passage omitted]

80 Victims Identified

BK2010042588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Text] Eighty of the one hundred and thirty bodies of victims of the Indian Airlines plane, which crashed at Ahmadabad, have been identified. Forty-one of them have been handed over to their relatives. Twenty-one bodies were flown back to Bombay by Indian Airlines and IAF [Indian Air Force] planes.

The remaining 50 bodies will be handed over to their relatives after completion of post mortem today. The condition of three of the five surviors under treatment in hospital is stated to be critical.

The Indian Airlines Flight IC-113 from Bombay to Ahmadabad crashed yesterday morning while approaching the runway at Ahmadabad Airport. One hundred and twenty-nine passengers and six crew members were on board the flight. The flight data recorder and the cockpit recorder have been badly damaged. A court of inquiry is to hold investigations into the cause of the accident. A departmental inquiry is already in progress.

Rescue and relief parties could not reach the site of the second air disaster involving a Vayudoot plane near Sakabari in Meghalaya. Torrential rains and hilly terrain prevented rescue teams from reaching the area.

The union minister of state for civil aviation, Mr Shivraj Patil, and the managing director of Vayudoot arrived in Guwahati last evening to supervise rescue operations.

The Vayudoot flight from Silchar to Guwahati had on board 31 passengers and 4 crew members. The plane crashed into a 4,000 foot hillock in the Assam-Meghalaya border region. The wreckage of the plane is strewn over a large area on a hilltop.

Vayudoot has set up control rooms in eight of its offices in Guwahati, Silchar, and Delhi to provide information about the crash and rescue operations.

12 Bodies Recovered

BK2010075888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Text] Twelve bodies have been recovered from the ill-fated Vayudoot aircraft, which crashed near Guwahati Airport yesterday. The search parties, which reached the site this morning, are engaged in recovering more bodies, which are scattered under the wreckage.

Our Shillong and Guwahati correspondents report that there is no indication of any survivors, as the aircraft has been totally burnt. The Vayudoot plane from Silchar to Guwahati with 35 people on board crashed near Hakubari in Meghalaya. Control rooms have been set up in eight Vayudoot offices in Guwahati, Silchar, and Delhi to provide information.

In the other Indian airlines mishap in Ahmadabad, some more bodies have been identified. So far, 89 bodies out of 130 have been identified. Seventy-two bodies have been handed over to their relatives and 21 flown to Bombay. Post mortem of the remaining bodies has been taken up.

Twenty-two relatives of the victims were taken to Ahmadabad from Delhi yesterday. Two special flights also operated from Bombay to take the relatives to Ahmadabad.

An investigating team of the civil aviation ministry headed by the deputy director general, civil aviation, Mr H.S. Khora, is at the plane crash site. Mr Khora said the main task is to ensure that no evidence is lost till the court of inquiry starts functioning. The team has begun collecting evidence from eyewitnesses and others.

The condition of three of the five survivors under treatment in hospital is stated to be critical. The Indian Airlines Flight IC-113 from Bombay to Ahmadabad crashed yesterday morning, while approaching the runway at Ahmadabad Airport. A hundred and twenty-nine passengers and six crew members were on board the flight. The flight data recorder and the cockpit recorder have been recovered. The cockpit recorder has, however, been badly damaged.

Iran

Rafsanjani Interviewed on Release of POW's

LD2010095688 Tehran IRNA in English 0917 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 20, IRNA—Iraq's new propaganda ploy on exchange of prisoners of war is to subdue people's pressure on the Baghdad regime, said Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, adding if Iraq really wanted the release of the POW's, it would not hamper implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

Speaking in an interview with IRNA today, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani who is also acting Armed Forces commander-in-chief further stated that the solution to the problem was clear.

The POWs, he added, should be released after strengthening of the August 25 cease-fire and withdrawal of forces to internationally recognised borders. Therefore, he stressed, it is Iraq which is procrastinating the exchange of the POWs.

On Iraq's incentive behind the idea, he said the Iraqi regime is under the people's pressure and is therefore trying to escape these pressures by resorting to such propaganda ploys.

The people of Iraq, he added, have realised that the only way to guarantee the release of the POWs is for Iraq to stop its impediments on the way of the resolution's execution. If it were not for these Iraqi obstructions, half of the POWs would have been freed by now, he said.

"We want the release of the POWs to be speeded up but within the framework of Resolution 598," Rafsanjani emphasized. He also said by raising this proposal, Iraq wanted to pave the way for its future obstructions.

'Source' Reports Iraqi Use of Chemical Weapons

LD1910211888 Tehran IRNA in English 1636 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbaijan Prov., Oct. 19, IRNA—Four Iraqi warplanes dropped chemical bombs on 'Chame-Rezan' [name as received] region in Dukan Governorate (northern Iraq) last week, martyring 43 Kurds and wounding 180 others, a well informed source told Iran today.

The source said that concurrently with the approach of the winter the Iraqi regime has escalated its attacks against Kurdish populated northern Iraq, forcing more defenceless people to flee their hometowns.

Larijani Dismisses Reports on Ties With U.S.

LD1910183488 Tehran IRNA in English 1822 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Athens, Oct. 19, IRNA—Mohammad Javad Larijani, Iranian deputy foreign minister for Euro-American affairs, today dismissed Western press reports that Iran wanted to re-establish diplomatic ties with U.S. following the cease-fire with Iraq as "not substantiated and not well founded."

He told IRNA in an interview here before departing for West Germany, that the main block in development of relations with Washington remains the "U.S. Government's policy against the Islamic Republic of Iran."

"As long as the United States' policy is hostile and antagonistic towards our (Islamic) Revolution there is no reasonable base for the expansion of relations," stressed Larijani who also teaches mathematics at Tehran University when he finds time from his busy schedule.

Any meaningful relations was based on mutual respect, mutual interest and non-interference, the Iranian official said.

Larijani held talks Wednesday in Athens with Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias on U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 calling for a peaceful solution to the Iraqi-imposed war, Iran's ties with the EEC and Iran-Greece relations on his first stop of a European tour.

Athens, which presently holds the rotating EEC-presidency, expressed its total support for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 as the basis for achieving peace between Iran and Iraq.

Khamene'i Outlines Postwar Reconstruction Policy
NC1910093788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Part one of interview with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i by unidentified correspondent of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tehran; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Khamene'i: In view of the decree by his eminence the imam issued to the heads of the three branches of government regarding all (?aspects) of reconstruction, could you please tell us what the policy will be regarding reconstruction in the country?

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

As you mentioned, his eminence issued instructions that the heads of the three branches and the prime minister should have a joint session in order to formulate reconstruction policy and its priorities. In order to follow the imam's instructions, we held some detailed and fruitful sessions, some of which continued from morning to afternoon. We made some useful decisions and initiated the process of reconstruction in practice.

One of the decisions was to establish a consultative body so that policymaking by this four-member panel could be based on the opinions of experts.

Of course Mr Ahmad Khomeyni, the esteemed son of his eminence the imam, is also participating. About 7 or 8 ministers and cabinet members, some Islamic Majlis deputies and some experts in various fields, comprise the consultative body, which has 27-28 members. The experts specialize in production, commerce, economic policy, planning, and budget. The consultative body will examine various issues and will provide consultative assistance to the collective policy as delineated by the imam.

We set up this consultative panel, named the members, and invited them to hold the first session in a day or two, which, God willing, will be extremely constructive. Regarding the issues which were the focus of attention at those (?detailed) sessions, it was decided that all the country's resources and the efforts of the officials be devoted to four important issues or categories simultaneously; that is, in a manner that should not thwart our attending to the other three issues while we are attending to one particular issue.

These four issues are:

1. Reconstruction and efforts geared to the country's growth and expansion; that is, work at the foundations and grass roots.

2. The strengthening of the base of our defense.

3. The humane issues and the providing of necessary support to the families of martyrs and combatants as well as MIA's and POW's; that is, those who have given sacrifices in the imposed war, regarding whom the imam has made particular mention of in his message, and based it especially on these dear ones.

4. A relative scheme for the welfare of the people in general so that conditions after the war may, God wiling, be different from conditions in wartime, to an acceptable and reasonable level, not to the extent of extravagance and waste.

All efforts and potential will be channeled to these four areas. Of course, I will not say that they will be divided equally, as each of these issues warrants a different approach. There will be a basic allocation for each of these tasks, but one may be more important than the others and may require greater effort and facilities, while others may need much less. However, at present these four areas will be the focus of our attention.

I may add, in this regard, that in the message by his eminence the imam, it was not very clear, at the onset of our task, whether the responsibility of this four-member panel is the reconstruction of the war-stricken zones or reconstruction in a broader sense; that is, the reconstruction of those parts of the country which could not be carried out because of the war. We therefore asked him for a clarification and from his reply it may be inferred that in his view it should embrace reconstruction in a broader sense.

Another proposal which was ratified, was that reconstruction of destroyed cities and villages should have priority; that is, housing and urban reconstruction should be given preference and priority. The people's services may be used. Khorramshahr is one of the most important cities in the reconstruction program.

As you know, the people of Tehran have pledged to reconstruct it. It has been decided that a committee should be set up to implement some of the plans for the general reconstruction of this important historic city. This committee will comprise the Tehran (?foundation) headquarters, the Housing Ministry and the Khuzestan governorate, with the participation of the respected Ahvaz Friday imam, the Khorramshahr people's deputy in the Islamic Majlis, and some brothers who have insight and expertise regarding the problems of Khorramshahr.

They will confer and decide on the venue for the reconstruction of Khorramshahr and we will know on which site Khorramshahr is to be reconstructed. They will decide whether it will be entirely as it was before or partially so, and these considerations have certain reasons and justifications. The final decision will be known, God willing, after the commission has presented its recommendations.

Other decisions on the welfare of people (?in general) were announced and will be implemented according to the decree of his eminence the imam regarding commerce. The decisions will provide people the opportunity to become involved in commercial matters. It was for this reason that His Eminence Ayatollah Montazeri also gave detailed clarifications on this subject, as you know.

It was decided that the Commerce Ministry will be instructed to declare some goods free so that the people will be able to procure these goods for themselves from abraod against their own foreign exchange assets and they will be able to import them for sale. Hence the government will impose no restrictions on the fixing of prices for those goods.

The goods will be specified by the Commerce Ministry and will, in general, include those commodities which are in short supply in the country and for which the demand is great. For example, chickenfeed, rubber, sugar, or spare parts for machinery, pharmaceutical products and similar goods are important and can improve the lot of people, and are such that our present foreign trade situation cannot facilitate their production. Neither do we have the ability to produce them indigenously.

We will permit the people to import them and sell them in the country. God willing, if we see positive results from the import of such goods, the list of goods may be increased to an acceptable level. This was decided and will be implemented.

In other fields, for example in the export of handicrafts, as you know, the government had some time ago permitted those people to go abroad—or have some parties abroad to whom they can send exports—to export handicrafts to a certain extent and against a specified value in rials. This was suspended for a period by the government for certain reasons. We decided that we should refer this issue to the consultative committee for examination and when the implications of the matter become clear and it is in our interest, instructions will be issued to implement it.

Regarding work on basic issues, you know, it is extensive. In addition to housing and urban construction, important issues are agriculture, industry, industrial production, construction of ports, roads, power stations, and important factories, and the Mines and Metals Ministry. There are numerous aspects in this field of reconstruction and the consultative committee will make the necessary assessment in this regard, as I mentioned earlier. It will submit its proposals for ratification at the policymaking session.

On 'Principles' of Reconstruction

LD1910083788 Tehran IRNA in English 0730 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 19, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i here Tuesday outlined the country's post-war reconstruction policy stating that it centers on the four principles of: growth and development, increased defence ability, taking care of the families of the martyrs, disabled and missing in action and providing a relative well-being for all.

Speaking in a press conference, he said that the four factors were the core of guidelines provided by the imam on reconstruction. He said Imam Khomeyni's message in this respect covers reconstruction of the whole country including the war-stricken areas.

However, he added, in reconstruction, priority will be given to devastated cities. The president added that the port city of Khorramshahr will be reconstructed making use of popular forces and under the supervision of experts.

The council in charge of reconstruction policies is to give permission for import of goods which are in immediate need of the public. Foreign currencies for importing such commodities will have to be obtained by each individual trader at rates offered by private brokers.

The council is made up of head of the three branches of the government, prime minister, several ministers, majlis deputies and experts and specialists.

According to the president once successful it will be applied to other needed items. He added that on the basis of this decision items such as poultry feed, tires, sugar, automobile spare parts and medical appliances will be imported and sold to the public without government pricing. He added that export of handicrafts by the people is under study.

He pointed out that the major activities of the country such as those related to housing, agriculture, industries, power plants and factories are studied and evaluated by a body of experts and specialists. They are then referred to the council in charge of the reconstruction policies. If considered necessary they will be approved.

The president in conclusion said that in reconstruction the public participation is the main element, just as was the case in the course of the Iraqi-imposed war.

Ahmad Khomeyni Calls for Documentation on Imam

LD1910223788 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] After the publication of the imam of the ummah's decree addressed to Hojjat-ol Eslam Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, which granted him complete authority to compile and organize all documents and works related to

his eminence, Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni issued a statement today calling on various strata, the ulema, and dignatories at home and abroad who own books, documents, verses, decrees, messages, letters, photographs, films, or exclusive and undistributed cassettes from or of Imam Khomeyni to send either the original or a copy to the imam's office in Jamaran.

'Stalemate' in Talks on Relations With Britain

LD1910174188 Tehran IRNA in English 1503 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] London, Oct. 19, IRNA—The British Foreign Office has admitted that its options are limited while an agreement on improving Anglo-Iranian relations remain elusive.

A spokesman expressed concern, for the first time since joint talks in Geneva were adjourned two weeks ago, that there had been no progress on restoring full diplomatic ties. The talks had reached a "stalemate" he said.

He told IRNA Wednesday that despite twice having further discussions with Iran's charge d'affaires, Mehdi Akhundzadeh-Basti, there was "no firm proposals" and for the resumption of talks "no date had been set."

Indications have already come from Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe that his original statement in September, announcing agreement had been reached on a full restoration of ties, was premature. Britain was now moving "more cautiously" he said last week.

In a press conference in Tehran earlier this week, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said normalization talks had not been deadlocked. They would continue on the same level. He did not elaborate.

The spokesman did not believe Britain had many options while an agreement seemed elusive. The most valid option would only be "maintaining the status quo," he added.

"What we really want to do is to start the process towards a more rational and effective representation," he said.

The London TIMES Wednesday said Britain was left with "hard choices" to face if the talks had really broken down and full relations cannot be restored.

It attributed the impasse to Tehran seemingly setting "too high a price for Britain" but felt the onus was on London. For the British government to do nothing, it said. would be an "admission of defeat, leaving Iran at an advantage."

Further on GDR Parliamentary Delegation Visit

LD1910152788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] The deputy president of the GDR People's Chamber met Deputy Majlis Speaker Karrubi today. In this meeting, attended by some Majlis deputies, the GDR People's Chamber deputy president expressed satisfaction with the Iranian acceptance of UN Resolution 598 and announced his country's readiness to cooperate with Iran in post-war reconstruction. He said: Our ties with Iran are deeply rooted.

Then the deputy Majlis speaker said: In the same way that you enjoy security and stability in Europe, we seek real calm and peace in the region and in the Middle East. Mr Karrubi emphasized the existing mood of understanding and cooperation between the two countries and said: We praise your country's position on the elimination of poverty, international health issues, and Third World issues.

After the victory of the Islamic Revolution, our bilateral relations have expanded. We seek the greater expansion of bilateral relations in political, economic, and cultural dimensions. The convening of the joint commission [not further identified] reveals the existing cordial relations.

Velayati Receives Lebanese Hezbollah Delegation

LD1910181288 Tehran IRNA in English 1708 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 19, IRNA—Lebanon's Hezbollah delegation Tuesday met Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and briefed him on the latest developments in that country.

In response, Velayati placing emphasis on the need for unity among Muslims to encounter Zionist plots, said the conspiracy for disentegrating Lebanon and ignoring Muslims' rights should be foiled.

Soviet Agronomists Attend Joint Conference

LD1910150788 Tehran IRNA in English 1416 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 19, IRNA—A team of Soviet agronomists, attending the 35th joint conference on plant protection and quarantine methods, met with Deputy Agriculture Minister Javad Angaji Wednesday.

During the meeting, the two sides expressed hope that steps would be taken towards the exchange of agricultural data and experiences.

Musavi Receives PRC Light Industries Minister

LD1910191388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] PRC Light Industries Minister Zheng Xianlin met with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi this afternoon. During this meeting, which was also attended by Industries Minister Shafe'i, Musavi remarked that the basis of relations between Iran and China was strengthened during the war. Today, he said, we can expand these relations on the basis of mutual interests.

The prime minister also stressed that the parameters of economic cooperation between the two countries have expanded and the preliminary steps for this cooperation have been already taken. We hope, he said, that bilateral cooperation in the post-war reconstruction period will turn out to be effective with regard to further strengthening relations between the PRC and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The prime minister added that: The Iraqi regime is contravening all international laws and understandings in its moves, and we hope that your country, as a permanent member of the Security Council, will maintain its activity for precise implementation of Resolution No 598. We are suspicious about the delay in implementing Resolution No 598 and sometimes we wonder which of the great powers' interests is behind this delay?

Then, the PRC light industries minister, while conveying the message of friendship from his country's premier to Musavi, praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's stand on Resolution No 598 and gave assurance that the PRC will make every effort to implement Resolution No 598.

While presenting a report on his positive talks with officials of our country in Tehran, he announced that China is ready to participate in Iran's reconstruction, and said: While inspecting some of Iran's industries, we saw the praiseworthy progress in management and technology in the Islamic Republic, and we feel that we shall benefit from your experiences in the field of management and technology in the course of bilateral relations.

Pakistani Delegation Leaves After Border Talks

LD1910155988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports: A Pakistani delegation which has come to Zahedan to attend the second round of Iranian-Pakistani border talks, returned home after 2 days. The delegation held discussions with Baluchestan va Sistan provincial officials.

Mr Punder, Pakistani delegation head, participated in an interview before leaving Iran and remarked on the outcome of the delegations' talks with the Iranian officials. He said: In this session Iran and Pakistan agreed to extradite the criminals and offenders on the basis of border extradition regulations. On the issue of the border relations, he emphasized that liaison between the two countries' border guards can be very beneficial.

According to the same report, the politico-administrative deputy of the governor of the province told the Central News Unit's correspondent: This session has produced good results, such as frequent inspection of border fences, establishment of more order and security on the border, and more control of transit traffic.

According to the same report, at the end of the second session in Zahedan, an agreement was signed, according to which emphasis must be put on the expansion of bilateral relations to take steps toward maintaining security and traffic control, as well as holding frequent meetings between the two countries' border guards for resolving problems and issues.

Furthermore, emphasis was put on the expansion of trade between Iranian Baluchestan and Pakistani Baluchestan. There was also agreement about a passenger railway route between Zahedan and Qeta'ah.

Bhutan

Bangladesh's Ershad, King Discuss 'Calamities'

BK1210153888 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] President Ershad was given a warm and hearty reception when he arrived in Bhutan this morning on a day's working visit. King Jigme Singye Wangchuk received the Bangladeshi president at Paro airport.

President Ershad had talks with the Bhutanese king on regional cooperation in preventing floods and other natural calamities in the area.

The president was accompanied among others by Minister for Irrigation, Water Development, and Flood Control Anisul Islam Hahmud, Foreign Secretary Mohammad Mohsin, and Irrigation, Water Development, and Flood Control Secretary Syed Shamim Ahsan. The president has now returned to Dhaka.

King, Indian President Hold Talks 18 Oct

BK1810160688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Oct 88

[Text] India and Bhutan have called for further strengthening of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation—SAARC—to give shape to the vision of collective self-reliance.

Speaking at a banquet hosted by King Jigme Singye Wangchuk in Thimpu today, the president, Mr Venkataraman, urged the SAARC nations to rise above artificial barriers and work out their own future without outside interference. Mr Venkataraman said it is gratifying to note that the countries of the region are cooperating within the SAARC framework.

Referring to the international situation, the president said the past few months have witnessed a positive shift in international relations as a result of the Geneva accord on Afghanistan, the Iran-Iraq ceasefire, and the signing of the INF treaty. Mr Venkataraman said it is imperative that the world community must focus attention on building peace and eliminating poverty. He said prosperity for a few cannot coexist with poverty of the many.

Referring to India-Bhutan relations, the president reiterated India's commitment to give continued assistance to Bhutan to meet its developmental needs.

King Jigme Singye Wangchuk in his speech appreciated India's role in promoting world peace and security. He also praised India for its role in giving shape to the common vision of collective self-reliance through SAARC.

He said it was with India's generous technical and financial assistance that Bhutan has embarked on a process of rapid socio-economic development. Referring to the 244-crore rupee Chuka hydel [hydroelectric] project to be inaugurated on Friday [21 October], the king said it is an outstanding symbol of India-Bhutanese friendship and cooperation.

The president, who arrived in Thimpu early today on a 4-day visit to Bhutan, had 75-minute talks with the king on bilateral and international issues. Mr Venkataraman explained the broad perspective of the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's, proposed visit to China.

The president extended an invitation to the king to visit India which was accepted. On arrival in Thimpu, the president was given a ceremonial welcome by the Bhutanese king and other dignitaries.